Guma Hustisia construction project to be done next week. PAGE 3
Zoning gives SCA more time to provide added info. PAGE 6

75¢

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

Volume XXXI, Issue No. 25
FRIDAY FEBRUARY 5, 2021
www.saipantribune.com
www.facebook.com/saipantribune

TEMPORARY FIX

Workers of the Department of Public Works, who began their "Temporary Restoration Project" of Beach Road on Wednesday, Feb. 3, in front of the Gold Beach Hotel, are seen here continuing their work by applying cold-mix asphalt to the damaged parts of the road. One worker explained that this is used to patch up the cracks, then they will add another chemical powder to help make everything stick together, and finally use a plate compactor to flatten it up. The project aims to repair the road going north, reaching up to Saipan Computer Services in Garapan, and is expected to be completed within next week.

NEIL FAMA

DOL: Many ineligible for PUA

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Department of Labor says that thousands of laid-off and furloughed workers in both the CNMI's private and public sector may not qualify to receive Pandemic Unemployment Assistance the second time around, based on the recent guidance from the U.S. Department of Labor.

In a letter to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) dated Feb. 3, 2021, Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente informed him that recent guid-

See DOL on Page 4

OAG files amended complaint vs Atalig

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General has filed a fourth amended information in Superior Court against Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig.

Atalig

OAG has amended count one in its suit against Atalig to allege a different theory of official misconduct based on improper approval of per diem for days not spent on official business.

Misconduct in public office is punishable by imprisonment for a period of not more than one year or a fine of not more than $1,000.

According to the fourth amended information, Atalig

See OAG on Page 4

Artman claims fatal accident not their driver's fault

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Artman Environment Corp. claims that their truck driver was not at fault and did not cause the accident Monday in Puerto Rico, Saipan that killed Raju Bhai.

According to a source within the company who spoke on condition of anonymity since the police investigation is still ongoing, he said the driver of the dump truck and his helper, who also witnessed the in-

See ARTMAN on Page 4

Widening scope of vaccinations in the works

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The CNMI received an additional shipment of COVID-19 vaccines starting yesterday and continuing until Saturday, resulting in the expansion and widening of the current phase of inoculations, Phase 1B.

In his presentation on the

See WIDENING on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 7pm, Feb. 4, 2021

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	7,618	4	7,622
Recovered	7,407	3	7,410
Active	79	4	83
Deaths	129	0	129
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			116,945

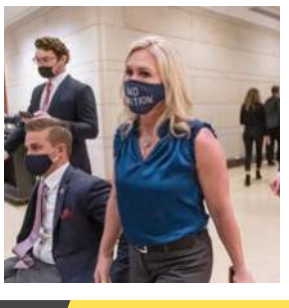
SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	133	0	133
Traced via Travel Screening	107	0	107
Traced via Community Screening	26	0	26
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			26,131*
Days since last community transmission			169

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

INSIDE

BUSINESS
There's a new star in the Sabalu Market at the Garapan Fishing Base: Angie's Bento House.
PAGE 13



NATION
House Republicans have decided to stand by two GOP lawmakers who have polarized the party.
PAGE 14

OFF THE WALL
Punxsutawney Phil has predicted that there will be six more weeks of winter.
PAGE 17

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

Subway installs air purification tech to enhance guest safety

Subway Restaurant has partnered with Docomo Pacific and Aura Air to be the first Subway franchise restaurant on the planet to pilot Aura's "world's smartest all-in-one air purification system."

Frank Cruz, director of product management of Docomo Pacific, said, "The Aura Air filtration detects indoor and outdoor air quality based on real-time monitoring through an array of smart sensors. Using our algorithm, you can change the functionality of your Aura Air devices according to what matters to your business. Aura Air targets and disinfects 99.9% of viruses, bacteria, mold, and volatile organic compounds or VOCs. Air quality data is monitored in real time to provide smart insights and recommendations."

» Franchise selected as first Subway location worldwide to pilot Aura Air Purification System, in conjunction with Docomo Pacific

Docomo Pacific is Aura's official distributor in Guam and the CNMI. Prioritizing worker and customer safety and satisfaction during a pandemic era that has changed the way the world does business, Subway Restaurant in Gualo Rai on Saipan became Docomo and Aura's first-ever air-quality improvement partner among the Subway chain of restaurants worldwide.

"In late December, we installed four Aura Air units at Subway Gualo Rai to gather air quality data for two weeks before turning on the filtration and purification to capture the difference," Subway Investments Corp. managing director Marcos W. Fong said. "The system is capable of measuring and impacting different impurities, including airborne particles, carbon monoxide, and carbon dioxide."

An Aura Air purification system is installed at the Subway Restaurant in Gualo Rai on Saipan. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cruz added, "When hazards are detected, Aura Air alerts

See SUBWAY on Page 4

HANA
HEALTH MASSAGE
SERVICES OFFERED
▪ Body (Oil) Massage
▪ Foot Massage (with medicine)
▪ Cupping Therapy (Suction cup massage for back pain)
SPECIAL PROMO
▪ 90 minutes Body (Oil) Massage $25
Locations: ▪ Across Kanoa Resort, besides Equitable Insurance
▪ MSV Building, Chalan Kanoa across Moonlight
9:30AM TO 11:00PM • MOBILE: 789-7778

CNMI COVID-19 VACCINATION UPDATE:

We are here
- NO VACCINE
- LIMITED SUPPLY — PHASE 1
- ADDITIONAL SUPPLY — PHASE 2
- BROAD SUPPLY — PHASE 3

6,400 Dose 1 vaccinations have been administered in the CNMI

PHASE 1a
- Healthcare workers, high-risk first responders, homebound/bedbound patients, & Man Amko' (≥65 years).

PHASE 1b EXPANDED TO INCLUDE
- Persons 55 years of age and older.
- Workers part of CNMI infrastructure across public and private sectors: Media & Telecommunications, Food & Agriculture(Grocery store workers, Restaurant/Catering/Bakery workers, and Wholesalers), Transportation Systems, Commercial Facilities, Energy and Utilities, Financial Services, Waste & Water Systems, Education Staff, Faith-Based Leaders, Covid-19 Contractors employed by the CNMI Governor's Task Force, and CNMI (State/Local) Government Employees (All agencies).

How to register & get updates
- **Visit our website** www.vaccinatecnmi.com
- **Call the Vaccinate CNMI Call Center** (670) 682-SHOT (7468)

CNMI COVID-19 VACCINATION SCHEDULE

— 02/01/21 - 02/03/21 —

SAIPAN

Monday, 2/1
TIME: 8am to 3pm
- Dose 1: Available for Phase 1a & 1b
- Dose 2: For those vaccinated on 1/11

Tuesday, 2/2
TIME: 8am to 3pm
- Dose 1: Available for Phase 1a & 1b
- Dose 2: For those vaccinated on 1/12

Wednesday, 2/3
TIME: 8am to 3pm
- Dose 1: Available for Phase 1a & 1b
- Dose 2: For those vaccinated on 1/13

Dose 1 vaccinations are limited per day. Go online to register at **vaccinatecnmi.com** or call the Vaccinate CNMI Call Center at **(670) 683-SHOT**/7468 to secure a vaccination spot.

Phase 1b dose 1 vaccination depends upon verification of employment status by CHCC and daily capacity.

LOCATION: CHCC - MCATS tents located across from the Emergency Room.

PARKING: Parking lot is located across the CHCC campus on Navy Hill Road.

TINIAN

Residents on Tinian from Phase 1a were vaccinated on January 17, 2021 with dose 1 of 2. A new vaccination schedule for Tinian is coming soon.

ROTA

Residents on Rota from Phase 1a were vaccinated on January 24, 2021 with dose 1 of 2. A new vaccination schedule for Rota is coming soon.

What to Bring
1. **Vaccination ID** (Located in confirmation email)
2. **Government Issued ID** (e.g, driver's license or passport)
3. **Employee ID** or latest paystub (Phase 1b only)
4. **Insurance Card** (If applicable)
5. DOSE 2 recipients must also bring their **Vaccination Record Card** (please make your appointment date even if you misplace your card)

VACCINATE CNMI CALL CENTER: (670) 682-SHOT / Mon-Sun 7am-10pm VACCINATE CNMI WEBSITE REGISTRATION: vaccinatecnmi.com @cnmichcc

Guma Hustisia construction project to be done next week

Construction of the COVID-19 Screening and Security Zone at entrance to the Guma Hustisia is set to be completed next week.

According to one of the workers on site, they anticipate the project will be completed by next Monday.

The Supreme Court on the first floor remains closed due to its close proximity to the ongoing construction work.

In a press release from the Commonwealth Judiciary Administrative Office, construction of the SSZ was originally set for completion by mid-January 2021.

The SSZ is being built using federal funds provided through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act or CARES Act. The Judiciary received its allocation of CARES Act funds back in June 2020.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, the CNMI Judiciary has reopened two of the six courtrooms of the Guma Hustisia, two years since they were closed back in 2018.

Since mid-January, the Superior Court has been using courtrooms 202 and 205 of the Guma Hustisa, in line with the court's deadline to fully reopen the courthouse to the public by June this year. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

40% of TMS teachers are vaccinated

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tanapag Middle School teachers feel easier with returning to campus for blended learning, now that roughly 40% of the teachers have already been vaccinated.

TMS principal Hilda Rios said some teachers were initially hesitant to return to school because of the pandemic, but now that roughly 40% of its teachers are vaccinated, they feel more comfortable.

When asked why only 40% of TMS teachers have been vaccinated, Rios said that it has been challenging for teachers to register because of the high demand.

In another interview with Gregorio T. Camacho principal Raena Camacho, she stated that it feels safe to be back in school. She added that she's aware that PSS is working on getting almost all the Public School System's staff vaccinated.

With parents feeling uneasy about their kids returning to school, Camacho said that they sent out a survey to see how families feel with blended learning.

"Majority of our families did indicate that they feel comfortable sending their kids back to school. I think that part of it is seeing private schools that have been implementing in-person learning, just seeing how things are going with that, and easing the anxiety of our parents," said Camacho.

There were some parents who were uneasy about sending their child back to school. "We're working with those families. We have our counselor here, so she's working with them, and we've also requested for the support of our Student Support Service Department, so they've also been open and are offering assistance," said Camacho.

As of Feb. 2, Camacho said there are a total of five families who have expressed unease about sending their children back.

When asked what TMS is doing for the youth to ensure that their mental health is okay, Rios said that their teachers make sure to check on the students in the morning and assessing their body language.

"It's good now because we can really see them visually, we get to read their bodies' gestures and see if they're affected one way or the other. All my teachers in the morning, they have a great way of just trying to get everybody to relax," said Rios.

They're Back!
Spicy Chicken McNuggets®
McDonald's Spicy Chicken McNuggets are back for a limited time with a spicy breading that adds a real kick to the fan favorite Chicken McNuggets®. Breaded in a crispy coating, flavorfully spiced with a blend of aged cayenne and chili pepper, they're sure to get your attention.
Apple Fritter
Available for a limited time only.
Available for a limited time only.
Order in the App, pass the line with a tap
Three easy steps to order through the McDonald's App
Download the McDonald's App
GET IT ON Google Play
Download on the App Store
Order on your time
Use our App to pick out your favorite McDonald's items a la carte or make a meal.
Pay
Pay using any major payment card. Your card will not be charged until you check in.
Pick up on your terms
Check in at any participating McDonald's restaurant to pick up your meal however you want—get your food brought to you Curbside, avoid the line Inside the Restaurant or grab it in the Drive Thru.
STORE HOURS: GARAPAN EXPRESS OPEN DAILY FROM 6:00AM TO 12 MIDNIGHT
CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD OPEN DAILY FROM 6:00AM TO 10:00PM
Chalan Pale Arnold Road 235-8577 • Garapan Express 233-8577 • Office Tel: 235-8761 • Fax: 235-8760 • E-mail: admin@jcamcd.com

Drunk Driving Prevention Campaign
FEBRUARY 7, 2021
SUPER BOWL LV
FANS DON'T LET FANS DRIVE DRUNK.
DRIVE SOBER OR GET PULLED OVER
DON'T RELY ON THE "LUCK OF THE IRISH."
DESIGNATE A SOBER DRIVER.
Saint Patrick's Day
Drunk Driving Prevention Campaign
MARCH 17, 2021
buzzed driving is drunk driving
For more information call CNMI Department of Public Safety.
SAIPAN 664-9125/9084/85 | TINIAN 433-9222/2041 | ROTA 532-9433/9530
www.dps.gov.mp
NHTSA
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

ARMATECH
Wireless WIFI Antenna Installer and Repairer
Tel: (670) 234-8895 I Email: armatech.saipan@gmail.com
Mobile: (670) 287-5525 / (670) 783-8895

Think safe.
Be safe.
Work safe.

Unsafe gas appliances can put you at risk from carbon monoxide poisoning, gas leaks, fires and explosion

Check your gas appliances frequently for:
- ☑ Distinct odor of rotten eggs
- ☑ A hissing sound
- ☑ Transparent vapor waves or frost spots

LP GAS WUSHIN
Since1983 Committed to Safety Excellence
For your LPGas needs, please call 322-7415 or 322-8733
Open from 8:00am – 5:00pm Monday to Friday | 8:00am – 2:00pm Saturday

SSHS earns AP Computer Science 'Female Diversity Award'

Saipan Southern High School has earned the College Board AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award for achieving high female representation in AP Computer Science A. Schools honored with the AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award have expanded girls' access in AP Computer Science courses.

Camacho

Out of the 20,000 institutions that offer AP courses, 1,119 achieved either 50% or higher female representation in one of the two AP computer science courses or a percentage of the female computer science examinees meeting or exceeding that of the school's female ratio during the 2019-20 school year. That's nearly 37% more than the 818 schools recognized last year.

For the year 2020 (school year 2019-2020), Saipan Southern High School was one of 232 recognized in the category of AP Computer Science A. The award was announced on Jan. 26, 2021.

Karen Echon Camacho is the classroom teacher for AP Computer Science A of Saipan Southern High School.

"During an unprecedented year, Saipan Southern High School female students have demonstrated perseverance and dedication in their study of AP Computer Science," said Vince Dela Cruz, SSHS principal. "We could not be proud[er] of our female students for staking their claim as the next generation of STEM and computer science professionals. We can't wait to see their passion for next generation technology lead to lifelong success."

"Girls can be computer scientists, too," said Camacho. "It's great that SSHS is recognized for the AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award. My hope is that more women will be interested in male dominant careers like computer science and engineering. #GirlPower"

"Saipan Southern High School's students need the power to shape technology, not just cope with it," saids Stefanie Sanford, College Board chief of global policy and external relations. "Young women deserve an equal opportunity to become the next generation of entrepreneurs, engineers and tech leaders. Closing the gap in computer science education empowers young women to build the future they want."

AP Computer Science A students learn to design and implement computer programs that solve problems relevant to today's society. The number of female AP CSA exam-takers has grown steadily, up nearly 25% since 2017. Overall AP computer science course participation has increased 79% since 2017, broadening STEM career opportunities for more students.

Providing female students with access to computer science courses is critical to ensuring gender parity in the industry's high-paying jobs and to drive innovation, creativity, and representation. The median annual wage for computer and information technology occupations was $88,240 in May 2019. However, a code.org analysis of 2017 Bureau of Labor Statistics data finds women represent just 24% of the 5 million people in computing occupations.

That's why new College Board research about AP CSP is so encouraging. ***(PR)***

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

DOL

From Page 1

ance from USDOL confirmed PUA ineligibility for those working on reduced hours and furloughed or laid-off workers and despite their efforts, they may not be able to lobby for reconsideration alone.

"Unfortunately, it has been apparent that the USDOL's ruling on the eligibility requirements concerning the second round of PUA will greatly impact furloughed employees and employees working under reduced hours in both the public and private sectors," she said.

Benavente fears that because of the new guidance, thousands of laid off and furloughed workers in the private and public sectors of the Marianas may not receive the help they need.

"The effects of such a ruling will have an exacerbated effect in the CNMI. Considering the high amount of unemployment within the CNMI, our administration wants to work in good faith with you to address this before it turns into a humanitarian crisis," she said.

Benavente said that USDOL confirmed that, in order for furloughed or laid-off individuals to qualify, their company must have completely shut down as a result of COVID-19, or they must fall under one of the COVID-19 related categories.

The COVID-19-related categories identified in the CARES Act include:

■ The individual has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or has COVID-19 symptoms and is seeking a diagnosis;

■ A member of the individual's household has been diagnosed with COVID-19;

■ The individual is providing care for a family or household member diagnosed with COVID-19;

■ A person over whom the individual has primary caregiver responsibility (like a child) cannot attend school because of COVID-19;

■ The individual cannot reach their place of employment because of quarantine related to COVID-19;

■ The individual cannot reach their place of employment because of a health professional's advisement of self-quarantine due to COVID-19;

■ The individual was scheduled to start employment and does not have job or cannot reach their job because of COVID-19;

■ The individual has become the primary breadwinner in their household because the previous household breadwinner has died from COVID-19;

■ The individual has quit their job as a direct result of COVID-19;

■ The individual's place of employment is closed because of COVID-19; or

■ The individual meets subsequent criteria laid out by the Secretary of Labor.

Benavente said the reality is that in the CNMI, many businesses only shutdown during the peak of the pandemic.

"Our businesses and our CNMI government made sacrifices to stay afloat due to the pandemic in order to minimize the loss of jobs and ensure that people had a basic income to meet their basic needs," she said.

WIDENING

From Page 1

vaccine rollout in the CNMI at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce membership meeting last Wednesday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom in Garapan, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief operating officer Subroto Banerji said his team is excited to receive the additional shipment because more people will be vaccinated soon.

"As a result of the additional vaccines, we are looking at expanding and widening the Phase 1B. We are reassessing the hours of operations. We are saying that during the middle of the day—whether it's lunch or not—we are seeing a dip, therefore we are thinking of considering extending the hours into the evening. Not too late but to allow people who are going home from work to get their vaccination. We will be announcing that as soon as we crunch all through the numbers," Banerji said.

He did not specify the number of vaccines that have arrived, but Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's (Ind-MP) digital newsletter earlier stated that the CNMI will receive another 7,800 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine in the first week of February. This will bring the total doses of the Pfizer vaccine to 21,450.

The same newsletter, e-kilili, said the CNMI will also receive 3,200 doses of the Moderna vaccine in the February allocation, 33% more than January's allocation, for a total of 8,200 doses.

Each individual needs two doses of either Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, 21 days apart, for maximum effectiveness.

Banerji also disclosed that CHCC is finalizing planning for Rota and Tinian. "Because the Moderna vaccine is easier to transport to Rota and Tinian, health center personnel have been going through training, along with the call center and the COVID-19 Task Force. We hope after over a couple of weeks there, we will be in a position to be able receive more vaccines and start planning out the rest of February and March," he added.

As of Wednesday, over 10,500 residents on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota have already been vaccinated. The available vaccines in the CNMI are Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna Inc. vaccines.

Subroto said that a definite schedule will be in place as soon as they take hold of the Moderna vaccines. "As we get more Moderna, we will be able to get it out to Rota and Tinian…then the task force will start scheduling more weekly vaccinations so that we can get both islands covered pretty quickly."

OAG

From Page 1

committed misconduct in public office from about June 1, 2018, to Nov, 27, 2018.

"[Atalig], being a public official and acting under the color of his public office, committed an illegal act by violating when defendant willfully and knowingly improperly approved travel and/or travel costs for nongovernmental employees or governmental employees who were not traveling for government purposes" the amendment stated.

Originally, the OAG charged Atalig and seven of his current and former resident directors with misconduct in public office in connection with their attendance at a Republican Party campaign rally in Guam.

Atalig is the only remaining defendant in the Superior Court case.

Atalig's co-defendants have already disposed the cases against them through a plea agreement or by participating in an adult diversion program.

Back in August, in his case with the U.S. District Court for the NMI, jurors unanimously found Atalig and his common-law wife, Evelyn, innocent on all counts.

The Ataligs were acquitted of one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, and two counts of false statement.

The Ataligs were being charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, and false statement.

The prosecution alleged that the Ataligs went to a lot of CNMI-funded trips in 2018 with the primary, if not only, purpose being personal and not official.

The prosecution cited eight trips taken by the Ataligs at different times in 2018 to Guam, Palau, the U.S. mainland, South Korea, and Saipan.

ARTMAN

From Page 1

cident, told him and the police a consistent story: the traffic light was green and the silver Honda Ridgeline took the turn into the marina when it wasn't supposed to.

The source said Department of Public Safety investigators have interviewed the dump truck driver and his passenger several times since the accident last Monday and their stories never changed.

"I believe my workers. They have worked with me for a very long time and I'm confident they wouldn't lie," he said.

When asked about the circulating surveillance footage of the incident, the source said that you couldn't see the traffic light to prove that the dump truck driver ran a red light, like what some people are theorizing in social media.

The source said it's easy to believe that Artman was at fault but the light can't be seen. It's also possible that the silver pickup truck ran a red light.

In the surveillance footage that captured the incident, the silver Ridgeline was seen at full stop at the Puerto Rico intersection while cars were speeding past.

When there were no cars in sight, the Ridgeline took the turn into the Smiling Cove Marina. While turning in, the Artman dump truck was seen driving and then crashing into the passenger side of the Ridgeline. The impact of the crash caused Bhai and another man on the back of the puckup to fly out of the vehicle.

In a statement from DPS spokesperson Dre Pangelinan, the case is still under investigation as of 5:27pm yesterday. "At this time, the department cannot disclose any more information until this case has been completed and finalized. Once the case has been finalized we will share the findings," he said.

The accident happened last Monday, at about 1:12pm.

Bhai, one of the passengers of the silver Ridgeline, was pronounced dead on arrival at the Commonwealth Health Center at about 1:39pm. The other occupant was treated and admitted for serious injuries. The vehicle's driver was treated and released. The two occupants in the garbage truck were not injured.

The garbage truck was southbound before it slammed into the silver Ridgeline, which was making a left turn from the Chalan Pale Arnold intersection.

SUBWAY

From Page 2

you immediately, providing crucial intelligence as to the origin of the problem, solutions on how to rectify it, and alarms if immediate action or evacuation is required."

"Subway is proud to be pioneering the 'Internet of Things' revolution with our partners in the Northern Marianas," Fong said. "IoT technology enables us to serve our customers better. Restaurants and air circulation within them have been a hotly debated topic in the COVID-19 era. Having the technological capability to measure the quality of our air and being alerted when the metrics go outside predefined parameters allows us to be proactive in keeping guests and team members safe."

Taking every precaution to protect its employees and customers, Subway Restaurants in Gualo Rai and Chalan Piao remained open throughout the islandwide implementation of COVID-19 safety protocols. Both Subway Restaurant locations are open for 75%-capacity dine-in Monday through Sunday from 7am to midnight in Gualo Rai and from 7am to 11pm in Chalan Piao. ***(PR)***

YARDAGE & RIBBONS
30% OFF
SOUVENIRS

HOUSEWARES
20% OFF

RUGS & LINENS
20% OFF

GIRLS DRESSES
20% OFF

INFANT SHORT SETS
20% OFF

MENS SHIRTS & SHORTS
20% OFF

LADIES TOPS & BOTTOMS
20% OFF

SHOES & SANDALS
20% OFF

BOYS TEE SHIRTS
20% OFF

FACE MASKS
20% OFF

HAND SANITIZERS
20% OFF

SCHOOL SUPPLIES
30% OFF
SCHOOL BAGS & BINDERS

CHINESE NEW YEAR WEEKEND SALE
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6 TO WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2021

US CHICKEN LEG QUARTERS 20#
$10.99

US PORK SPARERIBS 20#
$19.99

HOFFY PORTUGUESE SAUSAGE 10oz
$2.69

BAR-S REGULAR BACON 1#
$4.49

KIKKOMAN SOY SAUCE 1.8 LTR
$4.99 ea.

ACE OF DIAMONDS TUNA 7oz
$1.49 ea.

DIAMOND G CALROSE RICE 50#
$27.99

PURISS DRINKING WATER 20/350ml
$5/cs.

JOETEN HAND SANITIZER 80% ALC 300ml
$1.79 ea.

JOETEN BUTANE GAS 4pk
$2.99

GROCERY/MARKET ITEMS

GHIRARDELLI MILK CHOC MIX 11.5oz
$4.99

GHIRARDELLI SEMISWT CHO CHIP 12z
$4.99

JIM'S INST COFFEE 3-IN-1 25x20g
$2.49 ea.

PIK NIK SHOE STRING 4oz
$1.79 ea.

POST ALPHA BITES 12oz
$3.99 ea.

SMUCKER'S JELLY GRAPE SQZ 20oz
$2.99 ea.

BEEF PATTIES BAG 3LB
$11.49

BEST YET MIXED VEG FRZN 32oz
$4.19

PACIFIC UNSWT HEMP MILK ORIG 32z
$3.99

BAUDUCCO TOAT WHOLE WHEAT 5.01z
89¢

BAUDUCCO TOAST ORIGINAL 5.01z
89¢

BAUDUCCO STRAWBERRY WAFER 5.82z
99¢

U.S. CHOICE BOTTOM ROUND STEAK
$4.99/lb.

U.S. CHOICE NEW YORK STEAK
$15.99/lb.

U.S. CHOICE TOP SIRLOIN RUMP ROAST
$6.99/lb.

U.S. CHOICE BRISKET CUT STRIPS
$4.99/lb.

Joeten Shopping Center

P.O. Box 500137 Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel. 234-6446/48 • Fax. 234-5876
Visit our 4-Branches: Joeten Susupe, Garapan, Dandan and Kagman

WE WELCOME FOOD STAMPS.
WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES

DISCLAIMER: PHOTOS MAY VARY FROM ACTUAL PRODUCTS.
PRICES MAY CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

AMERICAN EXPRESS VISA MasterCard

GUANGDONG HARDWARE
Never satisfied until you are
NEW ARRIVAL
LAVATORY FAUCET, MIRROR, GARDEN TOOLS, G.I. PIPES, SQUARE TUBES, SHORING JACK PIPE, ROOFING TIN & MANY MORE ABS, CPVC, PVC, CONDUIT PIPES & FITTINGS ARE ALL MADE IN USA ELECTRICAL TOOLS, WATER HEATER & WINDOWS
NEW ARRIVAL
Furniture

Make a Difference for Your House!

NEW ARRIVALS!
VALSPAR PAINT
It's the suitable paint for the island climate. Makes your paint last for a long time!

LED LIGHTS
• Less money, 50% energy saving!
• More stable, bright, and fashionable!
• More longer and environmental protection!
Your Smart Choice!
G60 Rebar is Available Now!
CHEAPEST DEALER OF MAJOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL ON ISLAND!
P.O. BOX 501640, SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 288-2288/2289/6688
FAX: 288-4488
E-mail:guangdong_hardware@163.com
BUSINESS HOURS:
Monday to Saturday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
DISCOVER MasterCard VISA

Midea® ELECTRIC
Kung Hei Fat Choi
SALE
MIDEA AIRCONDITIONING
AUX BRAND AIRCONDITIONING
FREEZER
REFRIGERATOR
WASHER
WATER DISPENSER
LED ITEMS, SMART TV 32" – 65"
FAUCETS
HARDWARE
HOME APPLIANCES, RICE COOKER, ELECTRIC FAN..
RECHARGEABLE SPEAKERS ETC.
5%-50% OFF
All rechargeable speakers have Bluetooth.
Lowest price is down to $13.99
AUX BRAND
9,000 BTU - SALE PRICE: $479
AUX BRAND
18,000 BTU - $730
MIDEA BRAND
24K 17 SEERS - $1,199
MIDEA BRAND
36K 16-18 SEERS - $1,999
RECHARGEABLE SPEAKER W/ MICROPHONE
(MINI SIZE – PARTY SIZE)
New Arrival on Hot Sale

Located at CK across the U.S. Post Office
HAO'S AIR CONDITIONING
Phone: 234-0680 / 285-0680 Fax: 234-0688
For more info, check us at the store.
INSTALLMENT AVAILABLE

Zoning allows SCA more time to give added info

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Zoning Board wants more information from Saipan Cares for Animals CNMI in its application to use an existing one-story building in As Gonno for its veterinary clinic and also to provide 29 dog kennels on the property.

After a brief executive session in Wednesday night's public hearing at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, Zoning board chair Tatiana Babauta announced that they will table SCA's conditional use permit application because they need more information from SCA.

» SCA holds talks with DPL to acquire additional lands to meet requirements

SCA is a nonprofit rescue clinic that provides low cost services for dogs and cats.

Babauta said they will give SCA until Aug. 1, 2021, to provide the board with more information.

As to what additional information they are seeking, Babauta said that SCA should contact Zoning administrator Geralyn Dela Cruz for the specifics. "She will provide you all the information and additional requirements," said Babauta, drawing applause from board members and supporters of SCA.

The board held the executive session after hearing the testimonies of some board members and supporters of SCA.

Lucy Sablan, a board secretary for SCA, said in an interview shortly before Babauta announced their decision that she attended the hearing to provide information regarding their Zoning permit. Sablan said she provided information that they're acquiring additional public lands and are hoping that Zoning will give them some time to get the public lands.

"The reason we're out here is because we're in violation of the Zoning law regarding the size of the location. And they are in an executive session to decide whether they are going to give us more time with the Zoning law," Sablan said.

She said they need the permit because they are renewing their business license.

SCA has five voting board members and two non-voting members.

"One of our long-term goals is to have a full-time veterinarian on Saipan to provide spay and neuter clinics on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian," Sablan said, adding that they need a very low-cost spay neuter clinic services to control the CNMI's animal population humanely.

SCA was founded by Beth Pliscou in 2016.

Among those who attended the hearing were Reps. Sheila Babauta and Leila Staffler (both D-Saipan).

In an interview while the Zoning directors were holding the executive session, Babauta said the Zoning board will decide whether to approve or deny SCA's conditional use permit for their current location in As Gonno.

"Because the size of their current location does not meet the requirements of the current Zoning law. It is currently zoned as rural," said Babauta, who chairs the House Committee on Natural Resources. SCA is trying to secure a conditional use permit from Zoning so it could also use the site as a veterinary clinic hospital.

Right now, SCA's current property is a little over 1,000 square meters. Babauta said SCA has already started talks with the Department of Public Lands for a public property right across SCA's current location. She said if SCA acquires this property, it will meet the requirements for the minimum size, which is a little over 4,000 square meters.

"Even though their current property does not meet the size requirement, they are already taking steps to try and meet that requirement by working with DPL on acquiring public land that is right next to their current property. There is a solution," the lawmaker said.

Babauta said she and Staffler attended the hearing because they fully support SCA as they are also dog owners. "I use their valuable services all the time. So we are very grateful

See ZONING on Next Page

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 8th birthday to Davizin Camacho Nekaifes! We love you so much. We wish you happiness and hope all your dreams come true, not only on your special day but always in life. Greetings come from Mommy, Daddy, and your siblings.

ZONING

From Page 6

for their existence and services to the community," she added.

Sisters Grace and Aria Keilbach, founders of the Boonie Babies Foster, also attended the hearing to support SCA.

Boonie Babies Foster, which has over 300,000 followers online, provides shelter, food, comfort, and love for boonie dogs before they are adopted.

"Our videos have over millions of views. Our most recent has 6 million likes. All the videos are about the dogs and about the situation on Saipan," Grace Keilbach said.

The Keilbach sisters, who are full-time college students, started just going around the island, feeding the stray dogs. The two eventually realized that they want to do more and that they could do more.

"And so we started taking in the worst-case scenario, the emergency cases, when we found the dogs that we knew would not survive the night," Grace said.

Within the past year, they have already rescued over 30 dogs that have diseases and injuries, Grace Keilbach said.

"We are currently working on getting the dogs adopted off island and to the states," she said.

Grace Keilbach said she and her sister were at the hearing to support SCA as they work closely with them. "We're not officially partners, but we work with them and they work with us. Without them, without their veterinary care, spaying and neutering, none of our dogs would make it," Grace Keilbach said.

She said they work with SCA in fostering some of their extremely sick puppies as well.

Aria Keilbach said she started Boonie Babies Foster two years ago. Their family arrived on Saipan from Colorado four years ago.

Aria Keilbach said she started fostering from Saipan Cares and they're the ones that gave them the inspiration to start doing this independently.

"All of our dogs get medical care from Saipan Cares but we do our own rescues and rehabilitation and adoptions. But none of which would be possible without Saipan Cares," Aria Keilbach said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rep. Sheila Babauta (D-Saipan), second from right, and Rep. Leila Staffler (D-Saipan), second from left, join board members and supporters of Saipan Cares for Animals CNMI in a group photo at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe Wednesday night.

Win Win Way sponsors Lunar New Year's meal distribution

Just in time for the Lunar New Year, which falls on Feb. 12 this year, Win Win Way Construction Holdings Ltd. announced its financial support for the next "Full Belly, Full Hearts" free hot meal distribution.

The distribution will take place at 4pm on Sunday, Feb. 7, in the parking lot of Majesty Chinese Restaurant in Garapan.

With 300 hot meals confirmed, this will be the biggest distribution yet. The meals will be prepared by chefs from Majesty Restaurant, and will include water and desserts to mark the festive occasion.

"We are proud to partner with Majesty Restaurant and friends in an event like this to brighten the Lunar New Year holiday for families in need," said Dr. Kan Hou-Sek Jim, president and technical director of Win Win Way Construction Holdings Ltd.

Win Win Way Construction Co. is the main contractor for Saipan Resort Hotel, owned by Honest Profit International. The new hotel is located immediately north of Pacific Islands Club Saipan in San Antonio

"We thank Dr. Kan of Win Win Way for his generous sponsorship. With his donation, we are able to continue our initiative and make the New Year a little brighter for people in need right here in our community" said Jackie Che, project lead.

Since Labor Day weekend, a total of 1,400 hot meals and 700-plus family grocery bags have been distributed in front of Majesty Restaurant.

If you, or a family, or someone you know would benefit from a hot meal, care package, and uplifting note, email FoodBox.Majesty@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Leolani Reyes named to dean's list

Reyes

Leolani Muña Reyes of Saipan has been named to the University of Phoenix's College of Health Professions' dean's list for the last half of calendar year 2020.

To meet eligibility requirements for the dean's list, a student must complete a minimum number of credits, and earn a GPA of at least 3.50 during a six-month period. ***(PR)***

Emergency water service interruptions

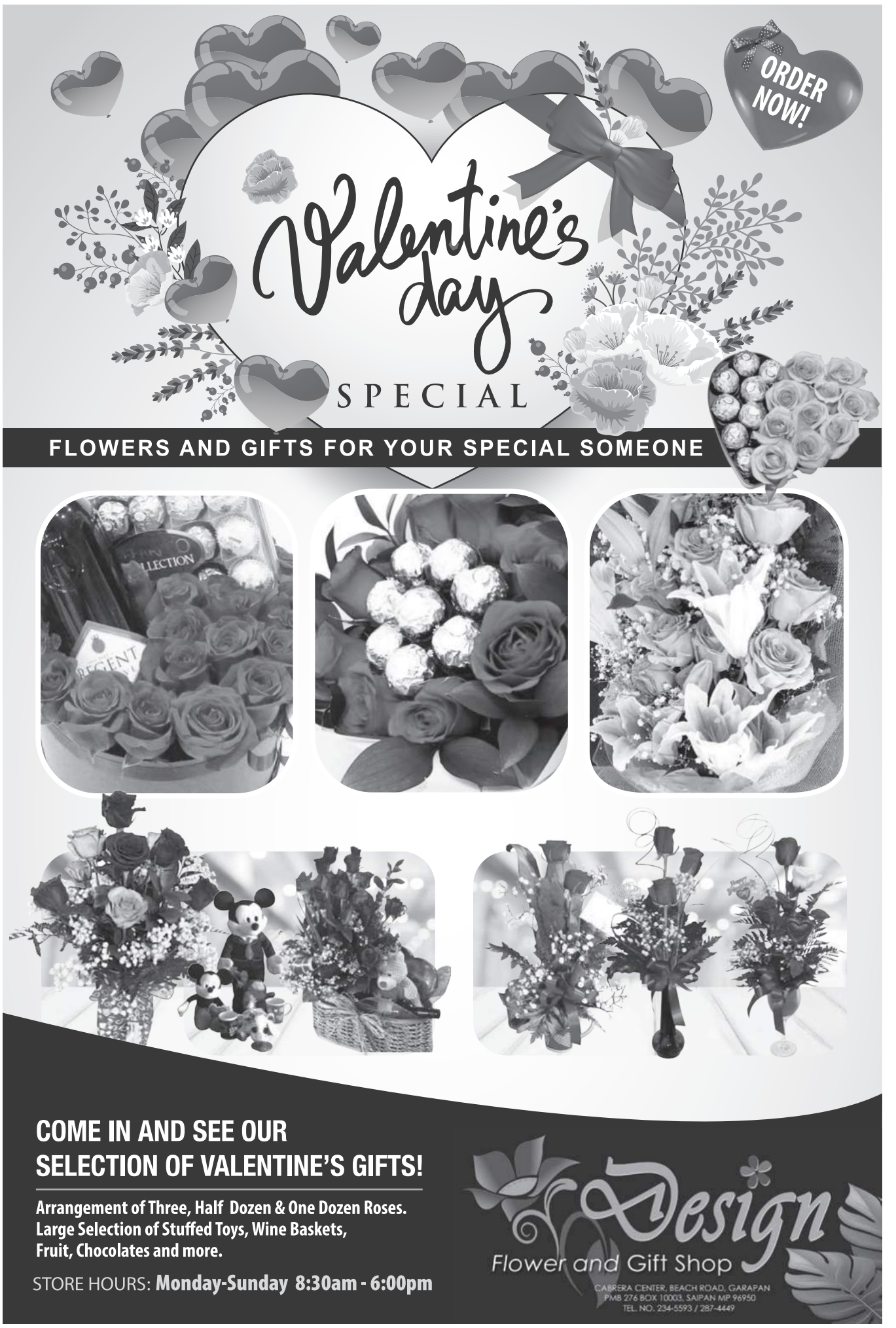
There will be an emergency water service interruption today, Feb. 5, 2021, from 9pm to Saturday, Feb. 6, 2021, at 1am for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in the area of San Vicente (customers along Isa Drive toward the San Vicente Elementary School and near the Youth Center).

There will be another emergency water service interruption on Saturday, Feb. 6, 2021, from 1am to 4am for CUC customers located in the areas of South San Vicente (after Dandan Bakery) and the Upper Dandan Homestead.

The emergency water service interruption is to allow CUC's leak detection team to perform a water draw test to help identify the areas with the most water loss as part of CUC's efforts to reduce non-revenue water loss. CUC requests the public's assistance in reporting any leaks on the CUC water system for repairs.

For the safety of the men and women on the jobsite, CUC advises motorists to exercise caution when travelling through the intersections of Isa Drive/Dandan Road and Sailing Drive/Dandan Road.

For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***


ORDER NOW!
Valentine's day
SPECIAL
FLOWERS AND GIFTS FOR YOUR SPECIAL SOMEONE
COME IN AND SEE OUR
SELECTION OF VALENTINE'S GIFTS!
Arrangement of Three, Half Dozen & One Dozen Roses.
Large Selection of Stuffed Toys, Wine Baskets,
Fruit, Chocolates and more.
STORE HOURS: Monday-Sunday 8:30am - 6:00pm
Design
Flower and Gift Shop
CABRERA CENTER, BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN
PMB 276 BOX 10003, SAIPAN MP 96950
TEL. NO. 234-5593 / 287-4449

PATA Micronesia has new officers, board

Priscilla M. Iakopo, who is managing director of the Marianas Visitors Authority, has been elected vice chairperson of the Marianas Chapter board of directors of the Pacific Asia Travel Association, or PATA, for the 2021-2022 term.

She is joined on the board by Paula Monk, United Airlines, Guam, board chair; Pohnpei Port Authority's Luciano Abraham, secretary; Francis Carlos Domnick, Office of Commerce, Investment & Tourism, Marshall Islands, treasurer; Ed Arriola Jr., Blue 46 Associates, Saipan, alternate board member; and immediate past chair Stephanie Nakamura, Paradise Comfort Rentals, Palau, alternate board member.

Iakopo

They will be assisted by the following committee chairs:

■ Culture, Heritage and Environment Committee chair Rita Pangelinan Nauta, Guampedia Foundation, Guam & vice chair Sandra Iseke Okada, Traditions Affirming Our Seafaring Ancestry, Inc. Guam;

■ Education Committee chair Denise Mendiola, Guam and Don Evans, Yap Visitors Bureau, Yap;

■ Marketing Committee chair Mark Manglona, Guam Visitors Bureau, Guam and vice chair Ed Arriola, Blue 46 Associates, Saipan;

■ Membership Committee chair Victoria Blas-Toves, Asea Guam & Beverly Borja, Guam; and

■ Public Relations chair Perdus Esha, Jr., Seabreeze Hotel, Pohnpei and vice chair Lou Aguon-Schulte, Paradises, Australia.

"I am honored and look forward to working with our board," said Monk. "I believe I can speak for our board and members by saying that we have a very important job to do this term, which is to help our region recover from the effects of a loss year and to make safety as our top priority. We are motivated to join forces and share knowledge and resources that can help the region safely rebuild to its once-thriving tourism economy."

PATA Micronesia also recognizes and thanks outgoing Nakamura for her service for the past two years.

This past term, the Micronesia Chapter successfully held tri-annual meetings throughout the Micronesia region; co-sponsored tourism-related training, workshops, and seminars; and secured a partnership with United Airlines to assist with travel for trainers, speakers, and presenters.

PATA Micronesia's 2021 mission will focus on continuing to assist in the development of the region's tourism industry to include sensitivity for environmental issues, respect for Micronesian cultures, adherence to high operational standards, and providing opportunities for education, training, and gainful employment.

While travel restrictions still apply in the region, the Chapter will continue to meet virtually until restrictions are lifted.

"We face many challenges ahead, however, we are hopeful that we can soon return to safely meeting in person this year to build momentum for our important work in the region," Monk added. "We learned so much about the fragility of tourism globally during this pandemic, and we are ready to support the islands in Micronesia to rebuild their tourism offerings and get businesses reopened and people back to work." ***(PR)***

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

JOB OPPORTUNITY

POSITION TITLE: CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

NUMBER OF OPENINGS: ONE (1)

SUMMARY:
This is a highly responsible professional financial and accounting position in the company's fiscal activities. The incumbent is directly responsible to the Finance Director and is expected to function in the absence of the Finance Director.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:
- Acts as primary support to the Finance Director in the financial administration of the Company's policies and procedures.
- Responsible for maintaining in full integrity of the company's financial statements including but not limited to Balance Sheets, Profit and Loss Statements and Cash Flow Statements.
- Must possess a strong background in general ledger preparation and its financial analysis and account reconciliations on a monthly basis. Makes periodic reviews of both revenues and expenses.
- When necessary, makes direct contact with other governmental agencies and Company departments.
- Responsible for all capital assets project. This is a primary assist duty.
- Assist the Finance Director in the administration of personnel affairs within the Finance Department.
- Responsible for compiling fiscal estimates and preparing special fiscal year-end reports as may be required.
- Responsible for compliance with the Company's accounting procedures including follow-up and testing to ensure proper adherence thereto.
- Establishes and maintains a registry of standard and special computer programs utilized by the Finance Department, including utilities programs.
- Establishes procedures that ensure full and current account receivable collections and accurate account payable payments.
- Performs other duties as may be directed by the Finance Director.

Supervises: 6 employees, 2 accountants, 1 clerk, 1 cashier, 1 auditor, and 1 assistant.

REQUIREMENTS:
- Education: Bachelor's degree in Business Administration (maybe foreign equivalent).
- Experience: 60-months as Accountant or Chief Accountant.

RATE PAY: $51,000.00 / Year

Interested applicants, please send resume to:
INTERPACIFIC RESORT SAIPAN CORP.
Dba: PACIFIC ISLAND CLUB SAIPAN
Attn: Human Resources
P.O. Box 502370
Saipan, MP 96950

This notice is being provided as a result of the filing of an application for permanent alien labor certification for the relevant job opportunity. Any person may provide documentary evidence bearing on the application to:

Certifying Officer
U.S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration
Atlanta National Processing Center
Harris Tower
233 Peachtree Street, Suite 410
Atlanta, GA 30303

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 21-021 **Opening Date: January 11, 2020**
Re-Announcement Ref. 20-016 **Closing Date: Until Filled**

POSITION TITLE:	**Trades Technician: Electrician**
DEPARTMENT:	**Power Generation**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$20,826.00 to $28,115.00 per annum, Non- Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**Two (2)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Power Generation Manager or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the department.

Duties:
- Performs maintenance, operations, installations, troubleshooting and/or repairs of Generator, switchgears and engine control panels of various brands/make/model, Motor Control Center, Transformer, Protection relays and Overhead crane.
- Read and interpret electrical diagrams and codes. USA standards, Japanese standards, European standards, and NEC (National Electrical Code).
- Knowledge in AC/DC system, Single and three phase system, Lighting and outlets, Paging System, Fire Alarm and Battery Bank.
- Familiarize with the usage of various electrical test equipment; Multi-meter tester, Insulation resistance tester, Transformer tester, Ground resistance tester & Hydrometer.
- Familiarize with the usage of various electrical tools – Crimper, Pipe bender, Hydraulic knock out puncher, Pipe threader, Micrometer, & Vernier caliper.
- Familiarize with the usage of various power and pneumatic tools – Portable drill, Grinder, & Impact wrench.
- Operates specialized and heavy equipment; Emergency generator, Forklift, & Overhead crane.
- Attend to Trouble calls after normal working hours.
- Maintains daily reports.
- Practices SAFETY. Cleans, organizes and maintains work areas.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program. Graduate from a Vocational/Technical Institution as an Electrician or related field. Vocational Certification and other specialized certificates. Must demonstrate having had: 4 years of increasingly responsible experience in a diesel engine power plant. 4 years of increasingly responsible experience in performing electrical duties.
Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Principles, practices and procedures of assigned service area; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.
Skills in: Performing skilled maintenance, operations, troubleshooting and repair. Recommending or implementing solutions. Receiving requests and trouble calls and providing assistance. Math and reading. Preparing and updating activity logs and status reports. Utilizing all electrical tools and test equipment. Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications. Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to:

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-21-017

CNMI STREETLIGHT EFFICIENCY PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the supply and delivery of Light Emitting Diode (LED) streetlight luminaires to promote energy and cost saving measures on the power distribution system in Saipan and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded from the United states Department of the Interior (USDOIA).

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-21-017, CNMI Streetlight Efficiency Project)"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on March 4, 2021** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) of the total bid price shall accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on February 10, 2021** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Adrian Reyes, CUC Power Division Engineer via email adrian.reyes@cucgov.org; Alfred Palattao, CUC Power Division Engineer via email alfred.palattao@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any non-material imperfection in the bid proposal if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Special Feature

Editor's Note: *The Governor's Council of Economic Advisers' Public Private Partnership initiative has drawn widespread support from the community. Various activities have been conducted and projects have been launched to rally behind the destination enhancement campaign. This section will provide insights on how PPP supporters are committed to the program.*

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS
Together, We Can
Public Private Partnership

P&A Corp. adopts *memorial site*

New U.S., Korean, and CNMI flags are on display at the Korean Peace Memorial, as P&A Corp. has committed to do maintenance work at the Marpi site.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

P&A Corp. has adopted a site that's close to its founding owner's heart—the Korean Peace Memorial in Marpi.

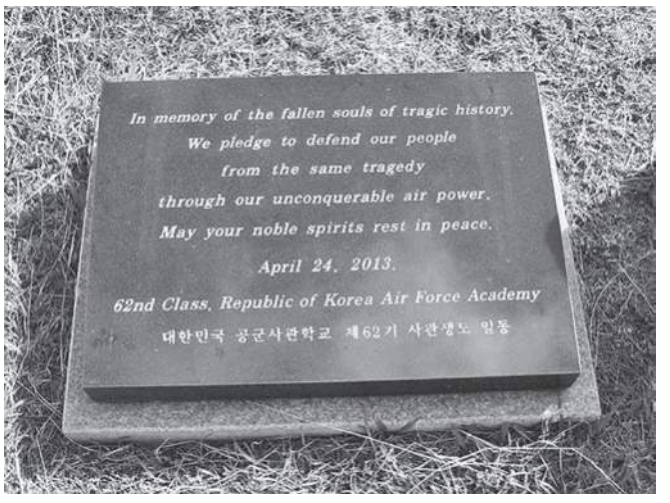
Built in 1981, the Korean Peace Memorial is dedicated to the nearly 1,000 Koreans who died on Saipan in 1944 during World War II in the Battle of Saipan. These men and women were brought by the Japanese government to the island to work in sugarcane farms, but later served in the Japanese army and were among the more than 50,000 soldiers and civilians (based on the story on *Operation Forager: The Battle of Saipan* posted in the U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command's website) that perished in the three-week battle.

"P&A Corp., under the leadership of its founding owner, Hong Kyun Kim, adopted the Korean Peace Memorial to memorialize the Korean nationals' sacrifices during World War II. Koreans are very patriotic and value the lives lost during the war. Taking care of the Korean Peace Memorial is our way of giving respect to our ancestors and of reminding everyone to never forget or take for granted these sacrifices," said P&A Corp. general manager Doyi Kim. "The Korean Peace Memorial is a testament to Koreans' contributions to the freedom we are enjoying now. It is very important the current and future generations, especially [for] us Koreans, to remember the hardships of war and honor our forefathers."

P&A Corp. is one of the many private companies that have adopted various sites in the CNMI in support of the Public Private Partnership—an initiative of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers that works on destination transformation on all three islands.

The San Antonio-based company will be conducting regular maintenance work and improvement projects at the memorial site, which is one of the frequent stops for visitors touring the historic and scenic northern end of Saipan. In 2005, Japan's Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko made a historic visit to the Korean Peace Memorial—the first time the emperor has paid respect at a monument specifically dedicated to Koreans killed in World War II.

Meanwhile, as part of its commitment to take care of the Korean Peace Memorial, P&A Corp. replaced the the torn Korean, U.S., and CNMI flags at the monument with new ones and had a cleanup drive last December. Later this month, P&A Corp. will do touch up jobs and preservation work on "Jang Seung" or the Korean traditional statues and clear the area of overgrown vegetation. The group has also scheduled repair work for the "Sotdae" or the Korean traditional wind vane next month. ***(PR)***


In memory of the fallen souls of tragic history.
We pledge to defend our people
from the same tragedy
through our unconquerable air power.
May your noble spirits rest in peace.
April 24, 2013.
62nd Class, Republic of Korea Air Force Academy
대한민국 공군사관학교 제62기 사관생도 일동

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXI, Issue No. 25

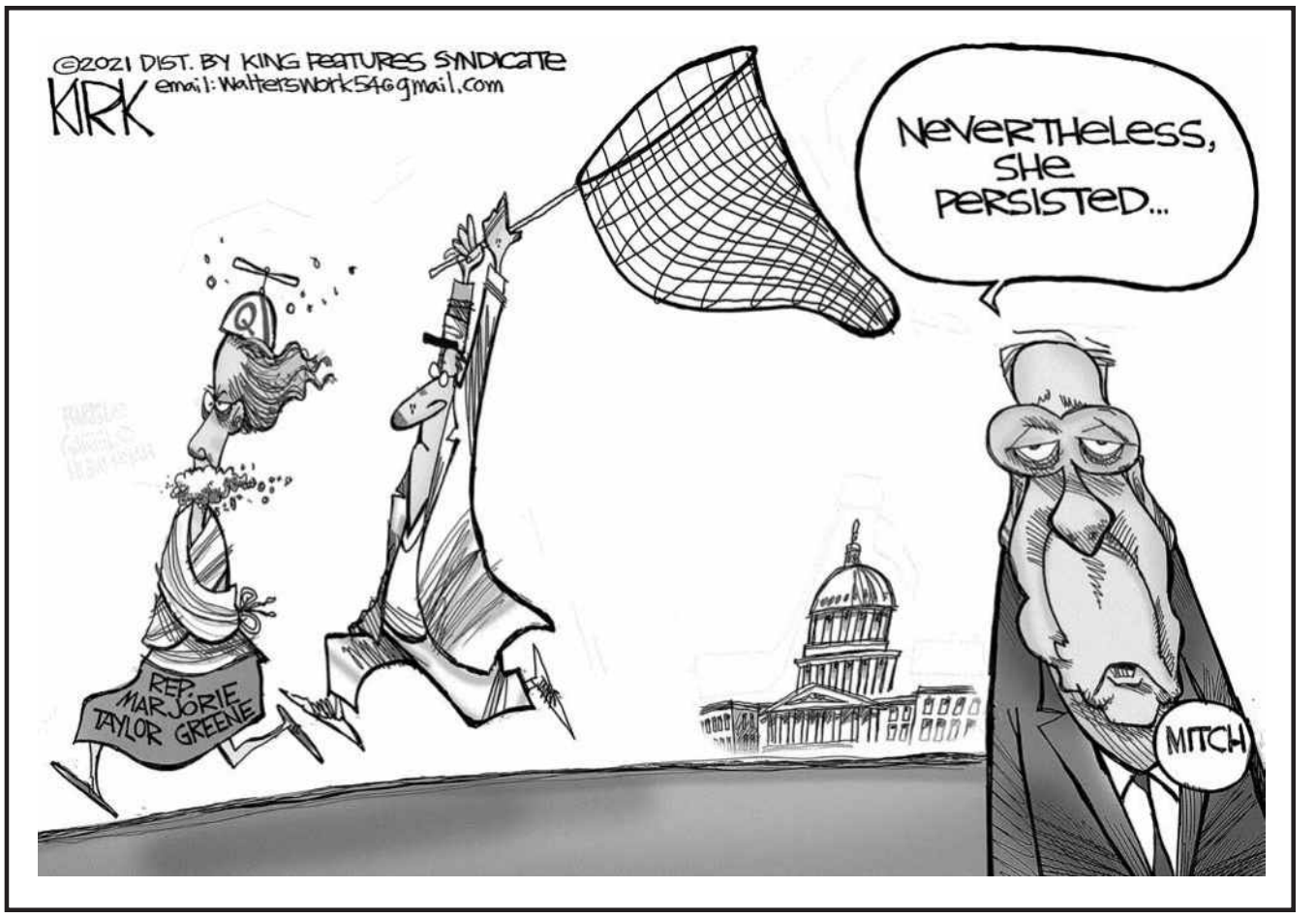
Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association



EDITORIAL

One Trump policy Biden shouldn't abandon

The news that the U.S. intends to restore ties with the Palestinian Authority suggests a return to a more traditional approach to peacemaking in the Middle East—one that rejects the Trump administration's view that U.S.-Palestinian relations hardly matter. This shift makes sense, but it would have a better chance of succeeding if it were combined with parts of Trump's approach to the wider region.

Trump helped bring about warmer relations between Israel and several Arab states—a genuine achievement. Moves by the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco to officially normalize relations with Israel will make it easier for others to do the same. The deals have strengthened ties between moderate, pro-American leaders in the region and will encourage trade, travel and technological cooperation. They should also help unify efforts to contain Iran.

What they won't do is directly advance the cause of peace with the Palestinians. Granted, the UAE conditioned its embrace on an Israeli promise to refrain from unilaterally annexing 30% of the West Bank, which would have dimmed any prospect for peace. But the other Arab countries ignored the Palestinian issue altogether. Indeed, in convincing the Trump administration to accept its disputed claims to the Western Sahara, Morocco made a legally dubious land grab of its own.

Arab states shouldn't have to wait for the issue of Palestine to be resolved before improving their relations with Israel. They have their own strategic interests to defend and shouldn't be obstructed by a sclerotic and divided Palestinian leadership. At the same time, though, making peace one by one with Arab nations won't resolve Israel's fundamental dilemma—the fact that it can't preserve its democratic and Jewish character without reaching a stable two-state settlement with the Palestinians.

The U.S. can help ensure that movement on one front leads to progress on the other. As Palestinian leaders had hoped, the Biden administration says it will reopen Palestinian diplomatic missions closed by Trump and resume development and humanitarian assistance. In exchange, Biden should press them to embrace the Arab rapprochement with Israel rather than fruitlessly decrying it. He should also encourage Palestinian negotiators to shift their focus from final-status talks with Israel—which have no immediate prospect of success—to interim steps that can shape the path to a viable Palestinian state.

Then, the U.S. should talk to other Arab states about making those steps part of normalizing their relations with Israel. Saudi Arabia, in particular, has every reason to make nice with Biden. In return for opening an Israeli trade office in Riyadh, for instance, the Saudis could call for an end to settlement-building outside of existing blocs.

See TRUMP on Next Page

Take heart, doomscrollers, America's on the way back

By NOAH SMITH
Bloomberg View

Noah Smith is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist. He was an assistant professor of finance at Stony Brook University, and he blogs at Noahpinion.*

Last year made it feel as if the U.S. was a nation in steep decline. And in some worrying ways it is. But looking back on 2020, and looking ahead to 2021, there are signs that the country has robust reservoirs of strength and effectiveness that will cause it to outperform the gloomiest expectations. It may not be morning in America yet, but it's past midnight.

The clearest example is the vaccination race. Despite problems with the initial rollout, the U.S. public health system has now found its feet and is putting about 1.2 million shots into arms per day—not far short of President Joe Biden's target of 1.5 million. Around the world, only a few countries have administered shots to more of their population than the U.S. has—and of those, all except the U.K. are very small.

Notably, China is lagging far behind the U.S. in the vaccination drive despite getting a considerable head start on development. The country's vaccines, which used an older technology than the U.S. shots and may have been subject to less reliable trials, have unclear efficacy. Whether or not China's vaccines actually work well, the country has slow-walked its rollout, and now has been reduced to spreading unfounded rumors about Western vaccines. If the U.S.' great rival continues to lag, the fight against COVID-19 could end up looking less like America's Chernobyl and more like a repeat of the space race—the U.S. off to a slow start but finishing strong.

In economic terms, the U.S. has taken a big hit from COVID-19, including a recent downturn from the big winter wave. But whereas the American economy was lagging other rich nations as of summer 2020, it's now recovered to an average performance:

U.S. manufacturing has already started bouncing back, with strong growth in late 2020. If the U.S. continues to win the vaccine race, it could do even better, since fear of the virus is what hurts economies.

The most vulnerable Americans have been hit the hardest by COVID-19—a pattern that is unfortunately typical of economic calamities. But the surge in poverty has only brought the U.S. back to the levels of 2018.

And 2018 was near the end of the longest unbroken streak of economic growth since World War II—an expansion that particularly benefited those at the bottom of the distribution. That suggests that the U.S. system has underlying strength that will return after COVID-19 goes away.

The reason poverty hasn't fallen more is that the U.S. has been very generous with government financial aid—partially reversing a typical pattern of stinginess and partisanship. Though the most effective relief measures were cut off too early in the summer of 2020, the Cares Act spent so much that American incomes rose in the second quarter of 2020, performing better than any other OECD country except Canada. The more recent relief bill will help preserve this record, as will any bill that Biden passes.

All in all, despite the summer slump, the COVID relief spending effort has showcased a surprising amount of bipartisan cooperation and congressional effectiveness—two things the U.S. has not exactly been known for in recent decades.

In addition to all this, the U.S. looks like it's finally getting serious about addressing its biggest long-term challenge—climate change. The bipartisan COVID relief bill passed in December also included significant measures to fight greenhouse emissions. It included $35 billion of new government investment in solar, energy storage and other green energy technologies, tax credits for solar and wind, and a phasing out of hydrofluorocarbons (a greenhouse gas used in coolants). And that was done under the Trump administration, with Republican support; Biden's plans are even bolder.

Moreover, the global fight against climate change has been advanced immeasurably thanks to American science, technology and industry. It was U.S. government-funded research that drove drops in solar cost between 1980 and 2000, and U.S. installation of solar at large scales helped continue the decrease afterward. Meanwhile, American science and the industrial leadership of Tesla Motors have driven down the cost of batteries as well. The result has been a true technological revolution. And that revolution is making it possible for other countries to step up the fight as well. India, only recently on track to build huge amounts of coal plants, is now canceling them rapidly in favor of solar, simply because the latter is so cheap now.

All this isn't to paper over the still-huge weaknesses and dysfunctions plaguing the U.S. Costs for health care, infrastructure, housing construction and higher education are far higher than in the rest of the developed world. The country's bureaucracy has suffered from years of neglect, disinvestment and political meddling. Polarization remains dangerously high, as evidenced by the unprecedented Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol.

But those who worry that the U.S. is in terminal decline should take heart. The nation's fundamental strengths remain, and many of its biggest challenges are being addressed by science, industry and government.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The plight of IPI's stranded guest workers

Editor's Note: The following is the text of a letter that Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) wrote Commonwealth Casino Commission executive director Andrew Yeom.

By EDWIN K. PROPST
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rep. Edwin K. Propst is chairman of the House Committee on Gaming in the 22nd Commonwealth Legislature.

I want to thank you and your Commonwealth Casino Commission team for joining our House Gaming Committee meeting last week Thursday, Jan. 28. We appreciate you answering our questions and concerns. We also appreciate that you were able to hear from IPI's stranded guest workers, several of whom shared their hardships and struggles with no income, no payments for what they are owed, and several living without power and water.

A few of my colleagues and I have been meeting with these workers since our last meeting, and I want you to know that these workers are being given plane tickets by IPI to leave the CNMI by Feb. 8. While they do want to return to their home countries, they do not want to leave without getting paid what they are owed. How can they leave the CNMI with empty pockets, without being paid? Is this fair? Is this legal? Is this humane?

The last group of guest workers from IPI who left back in September and October of 2020 were promised they would get paid what they were owed. To date, they have not received a penny. If these guest workers leave in a few days without getting paid, they are likely to suffer the same fate.

When IPI hired these guest workers under the CW-1 program, IPI agreed that it will "abide by the following conditions with respect to its CW-1 workers and any workers in corresponding employment."

Included in these conditions that IPI must abide by is "20 CFR § 655.423 - Assurances and obligations of CW-1 employers." As you likely already know, "CFR" is abbreviated and stands for the Code of Federal Regulations, which is the codification of the general and permanent rules published in the Federal Register by the executive departments and agencies of the federal government. This is a binding set of federal rules and regulations that cannot be willfully ignored. Yet somehow IPI has done so, and will continue to do so, unless the CCC, along with the U.S. Department of Labor and the CNMI Department of Labor, ensures they follow and adhere to these CW-1 rules and regulations. If they do not, then they jeopardize the entire CW-1 program for the Commonwealth. Is this fair to other companies who have followed all CW-1 rules and regulations?

Under 20 CFR § 655.423 (f), "The employer must guarantee to offer the worker employment for a total number of work hours equal to at least three-fourths of the workdays of the total period of employment specified in the work contract, beginning with the first workday after the arrival of the worker at the place of employment or the advertised contractual first date of need, whichever is later, and ending on the expiration date specified in the work contract or in its extensions, if any."

Under 20 CFR § 655.423 (g), "Impossibility of fulfillment. If before the expiration date specified in the work contract the services of the worker are no longer required for reasons beyond the control of the employer due to fire, weather, or other Act of God, or similar unforeseeable man-made catastrophic event (such as an oil spill or controlled flooding) that is wholly outside the employer's control that makes the fulfillment of the work contract impossible, the employer may terminate the work contract with the approval of the CO. In the event of such termination, the employer must fulfill a three-fourths guarantee, as described in paragraph (f) of this section, for the time that has elapsed from the start date listed in the work contract or the first workday after the arrival of the worker at the place of employment, whichever is later, to the time of its termination. The employer must make efforts to transfer the CW-1 worker or worker in corresponding employment to other comparable employment acceptable to the worker and consistent with immigration laws, as applicable. If a transfer is not affected, the employer must return the worker, at the employer's expense, to the place from which the worker (disregarding intervening employment) came to work for the employer, or transport the worker to the worker's next certified CW-1 employer, whichever the worker prefers."

In layman terms, IPI must pay its guest workers the "three-fourths guarantee" as stipulated in the CW-1 agreement. While IPI executives and their attorneys may ask whether or not this was in their actual contract, this should not matter, as this was a rule under the CW-1 program. Are they CW-1 workers? Yes. Did IPI agree to these rules and regulations when they hired them? Yes. Should they be paid what they are owed based on the three-fourths guarantee? Yes.

If these workers are sent home on Feb. 8 without being paid their three-fourths guarantee, then I will be calling for another Gaming Committee meeting and will request for your presence, along with your CCC team, CCC chair Edward Deleon Guerrero and the CCC Commissioners, the U.S. Department of Labor, and the CNMI Department of Labor for an explanation to our Gaming Committee as to why the CW-1 rules and regulations can so easily be ignored.

Guest workers in our Commonwealth should be treated with the dignity and respect they deserve, to be treated like family. This is our island way.

Director Yeom, we would like to see the casino industry not only survive on Saipan, but live up to its promises, which include a $7 billion investment. But it cannot do so when IPI cannot even pay its workers what they are owed. Before any further construction should continue, before any work moves forward, let us see to it that their workers are paid, and all vendors are paid. Then, and only then, can we have a serious discussion about the future of our casino industry on Saipan.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you.

We can't abandon another generation of children to the media wasteland

By V. SUSAN VILLANI
The Baltimore Sun

Dr. V. Susan Villani is a child and adolescent psychiatrist at Sheppard Pratt and a Fellow of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. Email: vvillani@sheppardpratt.org.

It has been 20 years since I wrote an article for the Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry titled, "The Impact of Media on Children and Adolescents: A Ten Year Review of the Research." The article focused primarily on television, movies, music and music videos, and video games with only two paragraphs devoted to computers and the internet. Broadband internet and smartphones did not exist. The research reviewed was primarily survey data about how many hours children used media and studies about the possible effect of violent media leading to violent behavior. What was clear was that all media has the capacity to teach and that media shapes attitudes and behaviors. The discussion warned that media use would increase due to rapid advances in technology and "new forms yet to be developed."

Recently, I began to think about the cohort of youngsters who have grown up consuming large quantities of media, especially "the new forms yet to be developed," now known as social media.

A child who was in the first grade when the article was written is now age 26. His whole life has been shaped by his experience with media, from his preteen years through his teenage years and now his early adult life. He has likely played hours upon hours of video games, learned about sex through pornography and maybe even sent a picture on his cellphone of his genitals to someone he was intimately involved with. And if he felt isolated and angry with no one to send a picture to, he could find a group online that would welcome him in, identify with his rage and teach him some new ways to vent. None of this was possible for prior generations.

The debate and concern about what children learn preceded what I wrote by almost 40 years when television first came into being. Newton Minow and Craig Lamay's 1995 seminal book, "Abandoned in the Wasteland: Children, Television and the First Amendment," chronicled their 34 years of work thinking about how television had transformed American families. Mr. Minow's phrase, "vast wasteland," was first used in a 1961 speech he gave shortly after President John F. Kennedy appointed him chairman of the Federal Communications Commission. After the speech he was alarmed that the phrase was quoted. He had intended to engage people in a discussion about defining the "public interest." The FCC was charged with assuring that the public airways were used in the public interest, but Congress had failed to define what constituted the public interest.

Years have passed, and the debate about the public interest continues, made more complicated by the sophisticated technology that has rapidly developed and been disseminated to practically every man, woman and child on the planet. The American Academy of Pediatrics now issues warnings about toddlers using cellphones. Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram have taken over and are raising our children. It should be no surprise that folks who stormed the Capitol were doing so in the name of a reality television star whose misinformation posts on Twitter they had come to believe.

What was proposed years ago is needed now more than ever: to define public interest and teach media literacy. The internet is the public airways of the 21st century and must be treated as such by the FCC and held accountable to operate in the public interest, with public interest clearly defined. Secondly, media literacy must be a core component of public school education. This must begin as soon as possible in order to build an electorate who understands how media work. A media literate electorate would question the sources of information, would look for signs of being manipulated and would read and listen to a variety of sites and authors before forming an opinion. A media literate electorate would also have the ability to assess new knowledge and apply that knowledge to new situations.

We are a nation and a world at a perilous time in history where technology has advanced rapidly and gotten ahead of our ability to think about the impact on children. Our way through this is not more knowledge or more technology. It is a recognition that we are all in this together and must be bound by what is in the public interest and consider what children are learning from media. We cannot abandon another generation to the wasteland.

TRUMP

From Page 10

The Palestinians would need to reciprocate any such moves—something else the Biden administration could press for. But Israel's leaders would also be wise to see that a measure of generosity is in their country's interests. Sincere gestures toward peace will strengthen Israel's new partnerships, which remain less popular in the streets of the Arab world than in its palaces.

As Israel grows more comfortable with its neighbors, it should find settling with the Palestinians more feasible. As a friend, the U.S. can help it to keep that goal in sight.

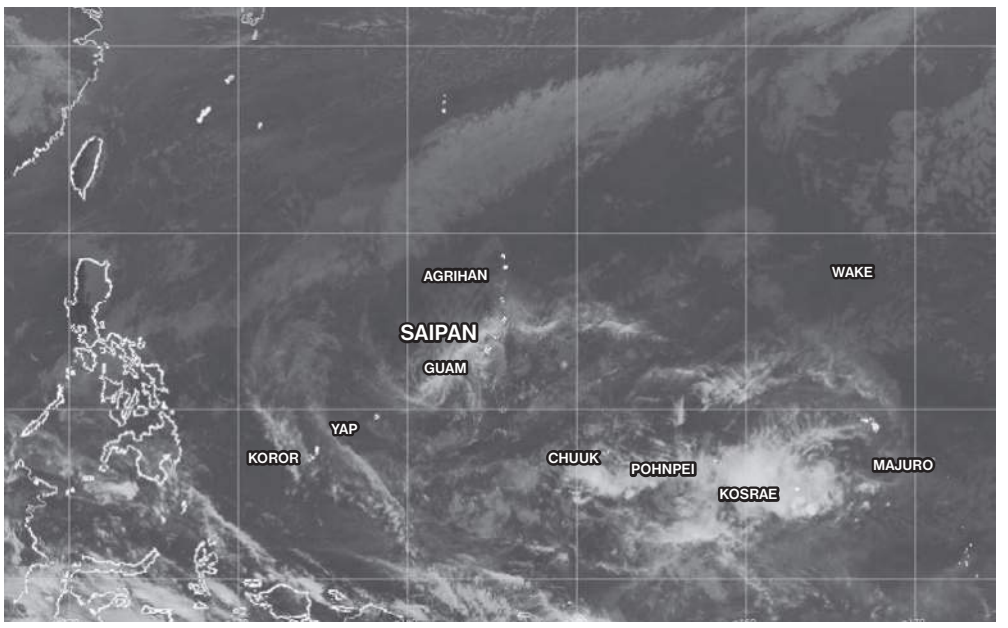
© 2021 Bloomberg L.P.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated light showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.	Partly cloudy. Isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy. Isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy. Isolated light showers.
86º 76º	86º 76º	87º 77º	87º 77º	87º 77º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:24 AM, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Partly cloudy skies and moderate to fresh trade winds are present across the Marianas. Combined seas range from 8 feet at Tanapag to 10.5 feet at Ritidian.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Showers	83º / 76º
Palau	Thunderstorm	84º / 77º
Yap	Thunderstorm	84º / 79º
Chuuk	Showers	85º / 80º
Pohnpei	Showers	84º / 78º
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	84º / 80º
Majuro	Thunderstorm	83º / 80º

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:45 AM	6:16 PM
Saturday	6:44 AM	6:17 PM
Sunday	6:44 AM	6:17 PM
Monday	6:44 AM	6:18 PM
Tuesday	6:43 AM	6:18 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:23 AM	12:14 PM	-
Saturday	1:22 AM	1:03 PM	-
Sunday	2:23 AM	1:56 PM	-
Monday	3:24 AM	2:53 PM	-
Tuesday	4:25 AM	3:53 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Sunny	75º / 61º
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	45º / 27º
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	72º / 64º
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	81º / 64º
London	Showers	48º / 39º
Los Angeles	Cloudy	65º / 52º
Manila	Partly Cloudy	88º / 72º
Melbourne	Sunny	93º / 63º
Miami	Partly Cloudy	78º / 66º
New York	Partly Cloudy	35º / 22º
Osaka	Sunny	54º / 39º
Paris	Showers	50º / 43º
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	48º / 30º
Rome	Partly Cloudy	61º / 50º
Salem	Partly Cloudy	69º / 47º
San Francisco	Cloudy	42º / 22º
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	43º / 23º
Tokyo	Sunny	55º / 36º
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	44º / 29º

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:42 AM	High Tide	1.31
7:09 AM	Low Tide	0.74
1:14 PM	High Tide	1.76
8:43 PM	Low Tide	0.00

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❑ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❑ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❑ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❑ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 2021

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	6:55am	7:35am	1, 6
UA117	7:00am	7:40am	4

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	6:55am	9:50pm	1 via Guam

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:10am	5:51am	1, 6
UA174	5:15am	5:56am	4

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	10:55pm	5:56am+1	3 via Guam
UA184/174	10:40pm	5:51am+1	5 via Guam

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	5
UA184	10:55pm	4:40am+1	1, 3

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 9, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

Angie's Bento House reemerges at Garapan Fishing Base

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MARK RABAGO
It only takes about two hours for Angie's Bento House to sell out all their food items at the Sabalu Market.

MARK RABAGO
Angie's Bento House is now in the Sabalu Market at the Garapan Fishing Base across Kristo Rai Church in Garapan.

There's a new star in the Sabalu Market at the Garapan Fishing Base—no other than local comfort food vendor Angie's Bento House.

Owners Regie and Anthony Duenas are no neophytes to the food industry as Regie used to run Ann's Creations and Cockpit Café at the commuter terminal of the Saipan airport. Before that, she used to be the manager of New Century Restaurant in the 1990s and also managed In & Out Café in Sadog Tasi.

Now the island community gets to enjoy Regie's delicious local food via her Angie's Bento House stall at the Saturday flea market across Kristo Rai Church in Garapan. It's become so popular that about two hours after setting up their stall at the Sabalu Market, the Duenas couple are already packing up their things as all items are already sold out.

"We only started selling at the Sabalu Market two weeks ago and at both times we've sold out everything," said Regie, who has made the island her home the last 33 years.

It's not uncommon to see a long queue in front of Angie's Bento House as everyone wants to taste Regie's best-sellers like dinuguan, chicken kelaguen, charakilis, sukiyaki, corn soup, and titiyas, among others.

Regie said her old customers from her days running Ann's Creations and Cockpit Café are patronizing Angie's Bento House now. She said it helps that the local food she sold at the airport are basically the same food she's cooking at Sabalu Market.

"My mentor in the kitchen is Nestor Lacandazo, who was our cook at New Century Restaurant. For the Sabalu Market, we wake up before 2am to start cooking. I also make it a point to use oyster sauce in all my dishes. A few drops of oyster sauce makes a big difference and makes all dishes special," she said.

Anthony, a retiree from the Department of Public Works, is Regie's eager helper in the Sabalu Market and even made some of the cooking implements they use.

Angie's Bento House, which Regie established in 2016 after Cockpit Café closed, is also a catering service and delivers to stores around the island. Aside from local favorites, Regie is also known for her Chamorro beef steak, arroz caldo, leche flan, puto, pichi pichi, hamburger, hotdogs, and potato chips.

From a high of 18 stores, Angie's Bento House has narrowed its delivery routes to just eight due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, they sell their food via consignment at San Antonio Market and WTL Store in San Antonio; Rising Sun Store in Koblerville; Gin Li Store, Lucky D, and Ming Yang Store in San Vicente; Shun Fun Store in Garapan; and Char Thrifty in Oleai.

A lot of their loyal customers keeps her going even after all their children have graduated and already have lives of their own. She said these loyal customers still call them requesting for their food and that's also the reason why they expanded to Sabalu Market to serve a larger segment of the island population.

For more information about Angie's Bento House or interested in their catering service, call 788-1140.

MARK RABAGO
Angie's Bento House owners Anthony and Regie Duenas with their son Dudu.

TakeCare, GRMS sign limited-term agreement

DEDEDO, Guam—TakeCare Insurance Company, Inc. and Guam Regional Medical City announce that they have entered into a limited-term agreement under which eligible TakeCare commercial/private sector and federal members will have access to covered and approved services under the TakeCare member's in-network benefits plans at GRMC starting Feb. 1, 2021. This limited-term agreement also retroactively covers services provided by GRMC to eligible TakeCare members for covered services from March 14, 2020, the start of the public health emergency.

Under the limited-term agreement, and only for the duration of the public health emergency, TakeCare eligible members may continue to access GRMC as an in-network provider for emergency, inpatient, and outpatient services including cardiology, general surgery, hematology/oncology, hyperbaric oxygen therapy and wound care, infectious disease, laboratory, neurology and neurosurgery, orthopedics, patient education, pulmonology, radiology, and rehabilitation services (e.g., physical therapy and speech therapy).

"We are constantly reviewing the provider network we offer our members," said Arvin Lojo, TakeCare Health Plan Administrator. "This agreement allows TakeCare members to access GRMC's medical services for the duration of the public health emergency."

"We are pleased to sign this limited-term agreement with TakeCare during the COVID-19 pandemic," said Dr. Michael W. Cruz, GRMC president and CEO. "We hope to negotiate a long-term agreement so that TakeCare members will be able to continue receiving in-network access to GRMC's specialized healthcare services when the public health emergency is lifted by Governor Leon Guerrero."

If you would like more information regarding your TakeCare coverage or benefits, please contact TakeCare Customer Service at (671) 647-3526, or Toll Free at 1-877-484-2411 or email at customerservice@takecareasia.com. ***(PR)***

Castro wins OTP Pro of the Year Award

TAMUNING, Guam—McDonald's of Guam and Saipan announced that Jarred A. Castro has been awarded the McDonald's Operations Technology Person or OTP, Pro of the Year Award for the Walnut Creek Field Office. The announcement was made at the finale of the OTP Pro Virtual CyberConnect Conference on Jan. 27, 2021. Castro is one of only two OTP Pro's chosen for the prestigious tech award out of the entire Walnut Creek Field Office.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Jarred A. Castro, fourth from left, has been awarded the McDonald's Operations Technology Person or OTP, Pro of the Year Award. Joining him at the recognition ceremony at McDonald's Tamuning on Jan. 28, 2021 is, from left, McDonald's of Guam and Saipan owner/operator Jose Ayuyu Sr., Tamuning general manager Vilmore Santiago, operations director Pacifico Martir, vice president Joe Ayuyu Jr., and owner/operator Marcia E. Ayuyu.

"We're extremely proud of Jarred's achievement in winning this national award and representing McDonald's of Guam and Saipan. Technology is critical to our operations and Jarred plays an instrumental role in the success of our technology systems," said McDonald's of Guam and Saipan vice president Joe Ayuyu Jr.

Castro joined McDonald's Corp. in March 2010. After three years, he was promoted to department manager for McDonald's of Tamuning. In May 2016, he remained with McDonald's following owner/operators Jose and Marcia Ayuyu's acquisition of all of the McDonald's Guam restaurants. In early 2019, he entered into the Operations Technology Person program, quickly earning an OTP 1 and OTP 2 certification. In September 2019, he attended McDonald's "M Tech University" in Arizona, earning an OTP 3 certification. Today, Castro provides high level technology support and installation for McDonald's of Guam and Saipan.

McDonald's Tamuning general manager Vilmore Santiago shared his excitement following the announcement. "When we started learning about OTP in the restaurant and the company was deciding who will be the best person to be an OTP, right away on top of my mind I suggested my manager, Jarred Castro. Seeing him with a knowledge on technology and having an outgoing personality and that technology is his passion. Having him as an OTP is a big help in the restaurant. We are made aware of any updates/upgrades. If there's any maintenance schedule happening on technology side, he also shares the information ahead of time. Also, he supports other restaurants in Guam and Saipan on technology issues and guides other OTPs to continue to learn from him," said Vilmore.

On behalf of the entire Guam and Saipan McFamily, McDonald's of Guam and Saipan is proud to celebrate this wonderful achievement and honored that Castro is a part of its team. ***(PR)***

Nation

House GOP keeps Cheney as No. 3 leader, stands by Greene

Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga., walks with fellow House Republicans on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2021. AP

WASHINGTON (AP)—House Republicans decided Wednesday to stand by two GOP lawmakers who have polarized the party, voting to retain Rep. Liz Cheney as their No. 3 leader and saying they'd fight a Democratic push to kick Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene off her committees.

In a 145-61 secret-ballot vote, House Republicans overwhelmingly rebuffed a rebellion by hard-right conservatives to toss Cheney, R-Wyo., from leadership after she voted last month to impeach then-President Donald Trump.

Hours earlier, after Democrats slated a House vote for Thursday that would remove Greene from her committees, House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy ridiculed them for it. His comments signaled he was dismissing bipartisan demands that the hard-right Georgia Republican be punished for her online embrace of racist and violent views and bizarre conspiracy theories.

The decisions over Greene and Cheney have subjected the GOP to a politically agonizing test of its direction as it moves beyond the Trump presidency. Since Trump grudgingly vacated the White House last month, the party has been ideologically adrift as it's struggled over whether to embrace his norm-busting divisiveness or the party's more traditional, policy-oriented conservative values.

But as Wednesday's internal showdowns concluded, McCarthy and the House GOP decided against punishing two of their most high-profile women, whose views enrage opposite ends of the party's spectrum. The moves were typical of McCarthy's preference to avoid ruffling feathers as he charts his path to someday becoming House speaker.

"You know what that's going to mean?" he told reporters after the lengthy evening meeting. "Two years from now, we're going to win the majority. That's because this conference is more united. We've got the right leadership team behind it."

But each of the GOP's wings remains concerned that the other is leading them down the wrong path, and to some, the day's outcome seemed more an uneasy truce than a full-on peace treaty.

"This is about the direction of our party and whether or not we're going to be a majority who's dedicated to just one person or we're going to be a united Republican majority," said Rep. Jaime Herrera-Beutler, R-Wash., who with Cheney was among just 10 House Republicans to back impeaching Trump.

Cheney is a daughter of former Vice President Dick Cheney and a fixture of the party establishment, and she is viewed as eager to rise even higher in Washington's GOP hierarchy.

Deposing her from the leadership would likely have dealt a devastating blow to her career. It also would have served as a warning shot to traditional conservative Republicans hoping to diminish Trump's hold over the party.

"I won't apologize for the vote," Cheney told her colleagues in the closed-door session, according to a person familiar with the session who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the private meeting.

During a break in the session, McCarthy told reporters he'd defended Cheney inside.

"People can have differences of opinion. That's what you can have a discussion about. Liz has a right to vote her conscience," said McCarthy, who'd previously given no clear signal about whether he'd support his lieutenant.

Attendants said Greene and the conspiracy theories she's embraced came up during the closed-door meeting, which participants said was spirited, with long lines of speakers at the microphones. Some said Greene apologized to her colleagues, though there were conflicting, vague versions of exactly what she'd said.

"She was contrite. And I think she brought a lot of people over to her side," said conservative Rep. Thomas Massie, R-Ky.

The day's action began when the Democratic-led House Rules Committee cleared the way for Thursday's vote punishing Greene. After that meeting, McCarthy released a statement saying Democrats were "choosing to raise the temperature" by attempting a "partisan power grab."

He condemned Greene's past endorsements of conspiracy theories—after weeks of saying little critical of her—and said the first-term congresswoman had recognized in a private conversation that she must meet "a higher standard" as a lawmaker.

"I hold her to her word, as well as her actions going forward," McCarthy said.

Greene has shown support for calls to violence against Democrats, bizarre fictions about faked school shootings and unfounded QAnon theories about Democrats joining in child abuse rings.

Rules Committee Chair Jim McGovern, D-Mass., said lawmakers would send "an awful message" if they took no action on Greene. "If this is not the bottom, I don't know what the hell is," McGovern said.

Around two-thirds of House Republicans voted to back Trump's effort to overturn his November election loss—just hours after his supporters' deadly Jan. 6 storming of the Capitol that led to his impeachment for inciting insurrection.

Yet Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., and other GOP senators have lambasted Greene, reflecting worries that her wing of the party cannot win statewide Senate races.

Biden set to boost US refugee admissions after Trump cut

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Biden administration is preparing to notify Congress and others that it will dramatically increase U.S. admissions of refugees.

Officials and people familiar with the matter say Biden plans to announce this week that he will increase the cap on the number of refugees allowed into the United States to more than eight times the level at which the Trump administration left it.

Former President Donald Trump had drastically reduced the refugee admissions cap to only 15,000 before he left office. Biden's plan would raise that number to 125,000, an increase of 15,000 over the high ceiling set by former President Barack Obama before he left office.

The officials and others, who spoke on condition of anonymity ahead of the formal announcement, said Biden will make his plan public during a visit to the State Department on Thursday.

Biden may also address asylum claims for residents of Hong Kong there, according to one official. He indicated during his campaign that he was interested in providing protection to people persecuted by the Chinese government.

The sources said Biden would not necessarily override the record low cap of 15,000 that Trump set for the current budget year. Instead, the 125,000 figure would be proposed for the budget year beginning Oct. 1. The president is required by law to first consult Congress on his plans before making a determination.

Advocates had said that the backlog of tens of thousands of cases by the Trump administration had made it unlikely Biden's target of resettling 125,000 refugees could be reached this year. It will take time to rebuild the pipeline. More than one-third of U.S. resettlement offices were forced to close over the past four years with the drop in refugee arrivals and hundreds of workers were let go.

But some say Biden should not wait to raise the annual target for admissions.

"We hope that President Biden will substantially raise the refugee admissions goal immediately, as he consistently committed to on the campaign trail," said Sunil Varghese of the New York-based International Refugee Assistance Project. "The president has the authority to raise refugee admissions mid-year to address the many humanitarian crises in the world, including those that have emerged or escalated recently, such as the situation facing pro-Democracy protesters in Hong Kong."

Virginia Senate passes death penalty abolition bill

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—The Virginia Senate passed a bill Wednesday that would abolish the death penalty, a measure that if passed into law would mark a major policy change for a state that over its centuries-long history has led the nation in the number of executions it has carried out.

The Democrat-controlled chamber approved the bill in a 21-17 vote that split along party lines and was seen as a key hurdle for the measure. Advocates now expect the House version of the bill to easily clear that chamber, and Democratic Gov. Ralph Northam has said he supports the legislation.

Wednesday's vote followed a lengthy, emotional floor debate.

"I cannot think of anything that is more awful, unspeakable and wrong for a government to do than to use its power to execute somebody who didn't commit the crime they're accused of. The problem with capital punishment is that once it's inflicted you can't take it back, it can't be corrected," Democratic Sen. Scott Surovell, the bill's sponsor, said as he introduced it.

Democrats raised concerns about the racial disparities in the application of the death penalty and pointed to research that shows it does not deter crime.

Republicans urged a "no" vote on the bill, saying it wouldn't give victims' families a chance at justice and voicing concerns that people convicted of heinous murders would be eligible for parole.

GOP Sen. Bill Stanley, who had initially co-patroned the measure, angrily spoke against it after Democrats a day earlier rejected attempts from Republicans to amend the bill, including changes Stanley proposed that he said would have guaranteed that people convicted of aggravated murder would never leave prison.

"This could have been coming out today as a bipartisan effort to end the death penalty. Instead it's a party-line effort," said Stanley, who also spoke about his personal opposition to capital punishment. He ultimately did not vote.

Republican Sen. Mark Obenshain acknowledged the "misapplications of capital punishment of decades and centuries past" but said that should not be a reason to do away with the death penalty entirely.

Asia

Myanmar charges Suu Kyi, giving legal basis to detain her

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar authorities charged the country's deposed leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, with possessing illegally imported walkie-talkies, her allies said Wednesday, a move that gives the generals who overthrew her legal grounds to detain her for two weeks.

The charge came to light two days after Suu Kyi was placed under house arrest and appeared to be an effort to lend a legal veneer to her detention, though the generals have previously kept her and others locked up for years.

The military announced Monday that it would take power for one year—accusing Suu Kyi's government of not investigating allegations of voter fraud in recent elections. Suu Kyi's party swept that vote, and the military-backed party did poorly.

National League for Democracy spokesman Kyi Toe confirmed the charge against Suu Kyi that carries a maximum sentence of three years in prison. He also said the country's ousted president, Win Myint, was charged with violating the natural disaster management law. A leaked charge sheet dated Feb. 1 indicates they can be held until Feb. 15.

"It was clear that the military were going to look for some legal cases against the leaders of the National League for Democracy and especially Aung San Suu Kyi to actually legitimize what they've tried to do," said Larry Jagan, an independent analyst of Myanmar affairs. "And that is really a power grab."

Police and court officials in the capital Naypyitaw could not immediately be contacted.

At the same time that authorities were working to keep Suu Kyi in detention, hundreds of lawmakers who had been forced to stay at government housing after the coup were told Wednesday to leave the capital city within 24 hours and go home, said a member of Parliament from Suu Kyi's party who is among the group. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he feared drawing the attention of the military.

The coup was a dramatic backslide for Myanmar, which had been making progress toward democracy, and highlighted the extent to which the generals have ultimately maintained control in in the Southeast Asian country.

In response to the coup, Suu Kyi's party has called for nonviolent resistance, and scores of people in Yangon, Myanmar's largest city, honked car horns and banged on pots and pans on Tuesday night in a protest. Supporters of the military have also staged demonstrations.

China to send 10M coronavirus vaccine doses abroad

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—China on Wednesday announced a plan to provide 10 million coronavirus vaccine doses to developing nations through the global COVAX initiative as part of its ambitious diplomatic and business efforts to distribute Chinese vaccines around the world.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said China is responding to a request from the World Health Organization as developing countries seek to fill shortages predicted to run through March. He did not offer details on which vaccine China was providing to COVAX, or whether it was a donation.

China has already shipped large numbers of doses of its own vaccines, mainly to developing countries. It has pursued deals or donations with more than 30 nations far exceeding the 10 million doses it is providing to COVAX. In Turkey alone, Chinese company Sinovac Biotech Ltd. has struck a deal to sell 50 million doses.

Its global efforts are seen by many as an attempt to boost China's reputation as it seeks to repair its image after the first cases of the coronavirus were detected in the central Chinese city of Wuhan in late 2019.

Japan expresses concern to UK over new Chinese maritime law

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's foreign minister and defense minister expressed strong concern to their British counterparts on Wednesday over a new Chinese maritime law that took effect two days earlier.

"Japan is staying alert and paying close attention to its effect on us," Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi said in online talks between the two sides. "I believe the law should not be used in a way that violates international law."

Japan sees China's escalating influence and military activity in the region as a security threat and has been stepping up defense cooperation with the U.S., Australia, Southeast Asian countries, as well as Britain.

The new Chinese Coast Guard Law, which increases the possibility of clashes with regional rivals, empowers the force to "take all necessary measures, including the use of weapons, when national sovereignty, sovereign rights, and jurisdiction are being illegally infringed upon by foreign organizations or individuals at sea."

It also authorizes the coast guard to demolish other countries' structures built on areas claimed by China and to seize or order foreign vessels illegally entering China's territorial waters to leave.

"We would like to share our strong concern with you" about the law, Motegi, accompanied by Defense Minister Nobuo Kishi, told British counterparts Dominic Raab and Ben Wallace, who joined them from London.

China's coast guard is active near disputed East China Sea islands controlled by Japan but claimed by Beijing. China also claims virtually the entire South China Sea.

The coast guard's activities have brought it into frequent contact with the Japanese coast guard and air force.

In a joint statement released after the talks, the ministers expressed "serious concerns" about the rising tension in the regional seas and urged all parties "to exercise self-restraint and refrain from activities likely to raise tensions, in particular militarization and coercion."

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
AUDIT MANAGER

EXAMINATION NO. OPA-21-001
Opening Date: 1/14/21 Closing Date: Until Filled

For more information, please visit our website at www.opacnmi.com or come visit us at our office in Capitol Hill. Interested persons may also pick up a copy of the Examination Announcement at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) in Garapan.

Office of the Public Auditor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Website: http://opacnmi.com
Address: 1236 Yap Drive, Capital Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Mailing Address: PO Box 501399, Saipan MP 96950
Email: mail@opacnmi.com
Phone: (670) 322-6481 Fax: (670) 322-7812

MUNICIPAL SCHOLARSHIP OFFICE

Rodney S. Cabarles, Chairman; Joseph T. San Nicolas, Vice Chairman; Joanna C. Aldan, Secretary; Ringo C. Reyes, Treasurer; Vacant, Board Member

Municipality of Tinian and Augiguan
P.O. Box 520059 • San Jose Village • Tinian, MP 96952
Email: tinianscholarship@gmail.com
Telephone: (670) 433-0504 • Facsimile: (670) 433-0504

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board hereby gives notice that there will be a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. at the Tinian Public Library, San Jose Village Tinian.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. NEW BUSINESS
  A. Review of the TMSB Annual Report (FY-2020-2021)
  B. Review of (1) Pending Applicant under Voc.-Ed.
IV. OLD BUSINESS
V. SCHEDULE OF NEXT BOARD MEETING
VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VII. ADJOURNMENT

/S/Rodney S. Cabarles
Chairman

[1]We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments on the day of the meeting
[2]Pursuant to 1 CMC section 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.
[3]Individuals with special needs requiring special accommodations, please contact the TMSB office at least 48 hours prior to schedule meeting for assistance.

VEHICLE FOR SALE

2016 KIA FORTE EX 2WD 5DN - BLACK COLOR

For more information, please contact Bank of Guam through its counsel, Robert T. Torres at Telephone Numbers (670) 234-7859 - (670) 234-5750.

Bids will be closed on FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2021 AT 5:00PM

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all offers

The vehicle will be sold to the highest bidder "as is, where is" without any warranties – **Minimum bid is $6,000.00**
The winning bidder shall tender the full bid amount upon acceptance

Inspection and a vehicle bid form can be obtained from Bank of Guam counsel's office at:
ROBERT TENORIO TORRES
Attorney at Law
Chalan Kiya
P.O. Box 503758 CK, Saipan, MP 96950

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Position: Civil Engineers

Job Description: Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering (maybe foreign educational equivalent). Inspect project sites to monitor progress and ensure conformance to design specifications and safety or sanitation standards. Provide technical advice to industrial or managerial personnel regarding design, construction, program modifications, or structural repairs. 24 months experience as Civil Engineer.

Send resume to: Pacific Engineering Group & Services (PEGS), LLC, Attn: Human Resources, P.O. Box 502713, Saipan, MP 96950.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW21-ITB-016

SUBMISSION DATE: February 23, 2021 TIME: 9:30 A.M.

"Island Wide Emergency Repair, Saipan Traffic Signals, School Zone Flasher & Ped. Signal System Project No. EY-19, (004) Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **February 09, 2021**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **February 17, 2021** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR,
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

World

Ecuador to pick new president amid deepening economic crisis

QUITO, Ecuador (AP)—Evidence of the crisis in Ecuador is everywhere: shuttered restaurants, soaring oxygen tank prices and countless "for sale" and "for rent" signs hanging from buildings. The South American country's beleaguered economy and the coronavirus pandemic are pushing millions to despair.

"There used to be a restaurant in my retail space, but the country's crisis caused the tenants to leave, and right now, few people have money to eat out every day," said Fausto Viteri, who is trying to lease or sell his commercial property in a once-vibrant neighborhood in Ecuador's capital city of Quito. "Very few of those who come by dare to enter the businesses that have survived around here."

Now, how soon Viteri and fellow landlords start making money off their properties again may very well depend on who gets elected president on Sunday. Democratic institutions came under stress during Rafael Correa's 10-year presidency, which ended in 2017, and the policies enacted by the successor of President Lenín Moreno will dictate how quickly this oil-rich country climbs out of the crisis.

More than a dozen candidates have entered the presidential race, making a runoff election on April 11 virtually certain. Two of them have led the polls in recent months, but most have little to no name recognition at the national level and are taking advantage of the publicly funded election system to run their campaigns.

AP

Supporters of presidential candidate Yaku Perez, representing the Indigenous party Pachakutik, take part in a campaign rally in Quito, Ecuador, Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2021.

One of the two main contenders is Andrés Arauz, who was picked by Correa—still a powerful political force despite his conviction on corruption charges. Arauz has proposed making the wealthy pay more taxes and strengthen consumer protection mechanisms, public banking and local credit and savings organizations. He has said he will not comply with agreements with the International Monetary Fund.

The other leading candidate is banker Guillermo Lasso, who favors free market policies and Ecuador's rapprochement with international organizations. He has promised to create more jobs and attract international banks. He also wants to boost the oil, mining and energy sectors through the participation of private entities to replace state financing.

In a distant third place in the polls comes Yaku Pérez, representing an Indigenous party.

The nation of about 17.4 million people on South America's west coast began experiencing an economic slowdown largely driven by the drop in oil prices in 2015.

"Ecuador is one of the most unstable countries in Latin America. There's a recession, deep political instability, (and) in October 2019, there was a massive Indigenous uprising," said Grace M. Jaramillo, an adjunct professor at the University of British Columbia whose research includes Latin America. "It's a country at a crossroads. There's deep political polarization that has plagued the country since the end of the Rafael Correa administration, and ever since, the political parties have been divided between whoever supports Correa—they call it "Correismo'—and whoever supports a transition that leads to something different, more plural, less authoritarian."

Correa became president in 2007. He was an ally of former Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, was accused of increasing authoritarianism while in office and declared Ecuador would default on more than $3 billion worth of bonds. He managed to slash the price of the outstanding bonds, but by the end of his tenure the country was already in a recession.

Moreno, who has said he was uninterested in seeking re-election, was Correa's vice president. Correa was sentenced in absentia in April to eight years in prison for his role in an elaborate scheme that demanded millions of dollars from businessmen in exchange for the contracts of large infrastructure projects between 2012 and 2016. Authorities have said the money obtained by Correa and other officials during his administration was used to finance political campaigns and party events.

Canada designates the Proud Boys as a terrorist entity

TORONTO (AP)—The Canadian government designated the Proud Boys group as a terrorist entity on Wednesday, noting they played a pivotal role in the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6.

The Proud Boys have faced increased scrutiny after seizing on the former Trump administration's policies and the group was a major agitator during earlier protests and the Capitol riot on Jan. 6. The Proud Boys is a far-right, male chauvinist extremist group known for engaging in violent clashes at political rallies. Canada is the first country to designate them as a terrorist entity.

During a September presidential debate, Donald Trump had urged the Proud Boys to "stand back and stand by" when asked to condemn them by a moderator.

Senior officials speaking on a technical briefing said authorities had been monitoring and collecting evidence about the Proud Boys before the Capitol Hill insurrection, but confirmed that the event provided information that helped with the decision to list the organization.

Public Safety Minister Bill Blair said they revealed themselves.

"Their intent and their escalation toward violence became quite clear," Blair said.

Enrique Tarrio, the chairman of Proud Boys, called the terrorist designation "ridiculous."

"There is no basis for it. It's infringement of free speech rights. All the Canadian Proud Boys have ever done is go to rallies," Tarrio said in a phone interview.

"They used what happened at the Capitol to push for this."

Tarrio said the Canadian chapters are very quiet compared to their American counterparts. He estimated there are between 1,000 and 1,500 Proud Boys in Canada.

Tarrio was arrested in Washington shortly before the Capitol riot. He was accused of vandalizing a Black Lives Matter banner at a historic Black church during an earlier protest in the nation's capital.

U.S. Federal authorities, meanwhile, arrested Wednesday a man who describes himself as the "Sergeant of Arms" of the Seattle chapter of the Proud Boys after he was charged in connection with the riot at the U.S. Capitol. He is at least the eighth defendant linked to the Proud Boys facing federal charges after thousands of pro-Trump supporters stormed the U.S. Capitol as Congress was meeting to certify Joe Biden's presidential win

Asked whether the U.S. will follow Canada and designate Proud Boys as a terrorist entity, White House press secretary Jen Psaki said the U.S. has a domestic extremism review underway. "We will wait for that review to conclude before we make any determinations," Psaki said.

The terrorist designation in Canada means the group may have assets seized and face harsher terrorism-related criminal penalties. A government official said just because they are a member doesn't mean they will be charged with a crime, but if they do engage in violent acts they could be charged with terrorist crimes.

Sending money to the organization or buying Proud Boys paraphernalia would also be a crime.

"The group and its members have openly encouraged, planned, and conducted violent activities against those they perceive to be opposed to their ideology and political beliefs," the Canadian government said in briefing materials.

"The group regularly attends Black Lives Matter (BLM) protests as counter-protesters, often engaging in violence targeting BLM supporters. On January 6, 2021, the Proud Boys played a pivotal role in the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol."

UK-EU talks aim to defuse Brexit tensions over N. Ireland

LONDON (AP)—Senior politicians from Britain, Northern Ireland and the European Union held inconclusive talks Wednesday in a bid to ease post-Brexit trade tensions that have shaken Northern Ireland's delicate political balance.

British Cabinet minister Michael Gove, European Commission Vice President Maros Sefcovic and the leaders of Northern Ireland's Catholic-Protestant power-sharing government held a video conference to discuss problems that have erupted barely a month after the U.K. made an economic split from the 27-nation EU. Sefcovic is expected to travel to London next week for more talks.

Northern Ireland authorities halted veterinary checks and withdrew border staff this week from Belfast and Larne ports after threatening graffiti appeared referring to port workers as targets, and staff reported seeing people writing down vehicle license plate numbers.

The border checks on goods entering Northern Ireland from the rest of the U.K. are a contentious product of Brexit.

Since the U.K. left the European Union's economic structures at the end of 2020, customs and veterinary checks have been imposed on goods moving between Britain and the bloc—and on some British goods going to Northern Ireland, because it shares a border with EU member Ireland.

The checks are strongly opposed by pro-British Unionist politicians, who say they drive a wedge between Northern Ireland and the rest of the U.K. They are calling on the British government to rip up a section of its divorce agreement with the EU known as the Northern Ireland Protocol, which gives the region a separate trade status to the rest of the U.K.

The Democratic Unionist Party, which heads the power-sharing Belfast administration, is refusing to cooperate with the Irish government on implementing the new rules.

Northern Ireland Deputy First Minister Michelle O'Neill, from the Irish nationalist party Sinn Fein, accused the DUP of stirring up tension with its "reckless" attacks on the Brexit agreement.

"The DUP needs to step back from throwing the baby out with the bathwater, what we need to do is be calm, be steady and work our way through these issues," she said.

Off The Wall

A gloomy Groundhog Day: Punxsutawney Phil says more winter

PUNXSUTAWNEY, Pa. (AP)—There will be six more weeks of winter, Punxsutawney Phil predicted as he emerged from his burrow on a snowy Tuesday morning to perform his Groundhog Day duties.

Members of Phil's "inner circle" woke up the furry critter at 7:25 a.m. at Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, to see whether he would see his shadow or not.

Shortly after this year's prediction was revealed, one of the members of the circle shared a message he said Phil had told him earlier in the day: "After winter, you're looking forward to one of the most beautiful and brightest springs you've ever seen."

The spectacle that is Groundhog Day in Punxsutawney still went on, but because of the coronavirus pandemic, revelers weren't able to see Phil and celebrate in person: This year, it was all virtual.

After the inner circle delivered the news, they hung around to take selfies and photographs of themselves with Phil against the fresh blanket of snow. One hundred and fifty cardboard cutouts purchased by fans and featuring photos of them in groundhog gear or with their pets dotted the hillside.

With few media outlets in attendance, Phil was able to avoid the usual throng of interviews and appearances. The quiet stood out during the pandemic-altered event.

"People have been referencing Groundhog Day. It has felt like at times we're all living the same day over and over again," one of the inner circle members said. "Groundhog Day also shows us that the monotony ends. The cycle will be broken."

"Today actually is Groundhog Day, there's only one," he added. "There is quite literally a new day coming over the horizon."

Then of course, the prognosticator of prognosticators emerged at dawn. The lore goes that if he sees his shadow as he did this year, there will be six more weeks of winter. If he doesn't, spring comes early.

Wearing top hats, members of the club summoned Phil from a new tree stump.

"You look beautiful," club president Jeff Lundy told Phil, who directed members to one of two scrolls.

A club member announced, "We have all passed through the darkness of night, but now see hope in morning's bright light. But now when I turn to see, there's a perfect shadow cast of me."

Groundhog Club President Jeff Lundy interacts with Punxsutawney Phil, the weather prognosticating groundhog, during the 135th celebration of Groundhog Day in Punxsutawney, Pa. Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2021. AP

The livestream from Gobbler's Knob, a tiny hill just outside Punxsutawney about 65 miles (105 kilometers) northeast of Pittsburgh, is made possible by the Pennsylvania Tourism Office's Holi-stay PA. Tuesday's event there—Groundhog Day is always Feb. 2—was Phil's 135th turn as a weather oracle.

Phil this year, like many years in the past, gave his forecast during a major snowstorm that hit the entire Northeast.

The annual event has its origin in a German legend about a furry rodent. Records dating to the late 1800s show Phil has predicted longer winters more than 100 times. The 2020 forecast called for an early spring—however, Phil didn't say anything about a pandemic.

According to records dating back to 1887, Phil has predicted winter more than 100 times, the club said. Ten years were lost because no records were kept.

China reserve shows off 10 panda cubs to mark Lunar New Year

BEIJING (AP)—Ten panda cubs made their public debut in China's leading panda reserve Wednesday morning to mark the coming Lunar New Year.

One appeared shy and covered its face with both paws when it saw the crowd, while another went rogue and crawled away from its keeper before being caught.

The pandas range in age from 4 to 6 months, and all resulted from natural mating, according to the China Conservation and Research Center for Giant Panda in southwest China's Sichuan province.

The black-and-white fluff balls made their appearance in a playground at the center adorned with Lunar New Year's decorations including lanterns, traditional Chinese knots, paper cars and flags.

"Newborn baby pandas from the class of 2020 ... wish you a happy New Year and lots of good luck in the Year of the Ox," their keepers shouted with the pandas in their arms, while some tried to clamber away.

Baby pandas sit near a display for the upcoming Lunar New Year of the Ox at the China Conservation and Research Center for the Giant Panda at the Wolong Nature Reserve in southwestern China's Sichuan province, Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2021. CHINATOPIX VIA AP

Bamboo baskets of treats were prepared for the pandas, with the Chinese character "fu," meaning good fortune and blessings, written on the outside.

This mimicked the Chinese tradition of adults giving red envelopes with money inside to children during the Lunar New Year to pass them good wishes and blessings.

Instead of money, the baby pandas got snacks. Some of them were curious about the baskets, while others were distracted by the toys and decorations nearby.

As of December, there were 44 panda cubs worldwide, and more than half were bred in China.

China has prided itself on its efforts to preserve a species that was endangered for many years. Pandas are also a symbol of China and part of its cultural diplomacy.

Oklahoma lawmaker proposes 'Bigfoot' hunting season

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—A mythical, ape-like creature that has captured the imagination of adventurers for decades has now become the target of a state lawmaker in Oklahoma.

A Republican House member has introduced a bill that would create a Bigfoot hunting season. Rep. Justin Humphrey's district includes the heavily forested Ouachita Mountains in southeast Oklahoma, where a Bigfoot festival is held each year near the Arkansas border. He says issuing a state hunting license and tag could help boost tourism.

"Establishing an actual hunting season and issuing licenses for people who want to hunt Bigfoot will just draw more people to our already beautiful part of the state," Humphrey said in a statement.

Humphrey says his bill would only allow trapping and that he also hopes to secure $25,000 to be offered as a bounty.

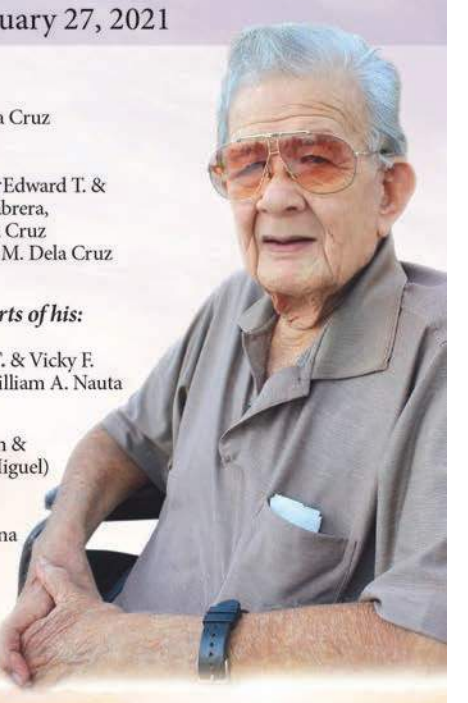
Micah Holmes, a spokesman for the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, which oversees hunting in Oklahoma, told television station KOCO that the agency uses science-driven research and doesn't recognize Bigfoot.

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE

Manases Tamaoki Dela Cruz

Lovingly known as "Bibi"

January 6, 1938 - January 27, 2021



In his new life, he now joins his:

Parents:	†Enrique Castro Dela Cruz & †Haruno "Maria" Sasaki Tamaoki Dela Cruz
Mother In-Law:	†Beatriz Zafra Macachor
Uncle:	†Juan Ogo (Dela) Cruz
Siblings & In-Laws:	†Maria DLC & †Vicente M. Cabrera, †Edward T. & †Florida M. Dela Cruz, †Probio M. Cabrera, †Elpidia DLC Nauta, †Enrique T. Dela Cruz
Children:	†JoAnne DLC Savea & †Sean Michael M. Dela Cruz
Pet Buddy:	†Kawaiiko

His love, memories and spirit will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife:	**Violeta M. Dela Cruz**
Siblings & In-Laws:	**Trinidad DLC Cabrera, Dr. Ignacio T.** & Vicky F. Dela Cruz, Bernadita B. Dela Cruz, William A. Nauta

Children, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren:

Vivian Frances DLC & Reyes E. Quintero (Vivian Lynne/Steven & children, Carol Lynn & daughter, Ray, Rita Frances and Miguel)
†**JoAnne DLC** & Jerome P. Savea (Marcus Jerome & children, Jonelle Franshae & children, and Keane Jerome)
Betty Anne DLC & James V. Diaz (Brandon Anthony/Magdalena & children, Joshua James)
Tanya Ciara M. Dela Cruz (Amaya Taye)
Miki Nadia M. Dela Cruz
Akeiko Marie M. Dela Cruz
SheriJean M. Dela Cruz
YukiAnna M. Dela Cruz
Zipper (Pet Buddy)

He is also survived by numerous cousins, nieces and nephews, godchildren, and friends.

Daily Mass of Intentions will be offered at Kristo Rai Parish every morning at 6:00 am:

Wednesday, February 3, 2021
Thursday, February 4, 2021
Friday, February 5, 2021
Saturday, February 6, 2021
Sunday, February 7, 2021
Monday, February 8, 2021

"In peace, I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety."
Psalm 4:8

Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, February 9th, 2021 where our beloved †Bibi will be escorted from the Borja Funeral Home to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral at 7:45 a.m. Viewing will take place upon arrival. Mass will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Domou Arigatou, Salamat Po & Thank You,
Violeta M. Dela Cruz & Children

Science & Technology

Microsoft backs Australian plan to make Google pay for news

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Microsoft said on Wednesday it supports Australia's plans to make the biggest digital platforms pay for news and would help small businesses transfer their advertising to Bing if Google quits the country.

Microsoft has been positioning itself to increase market share for its search engine Bing after a Google executive told a Senate hearing last month that it would likely make its search engine unavailable in Australia if the government goes ahead with a draft law that would make tech giants pay for news content.

Microsoft President Brad Smith said in a statement that he and Microsoft Chief Executive Satya Nadella had told Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Communications Minister Paul Fletcher in an online meeting last week that "Microsoft fully supports" the so-called News Media Bargaining Code.

Morrison this week confirmed he had spoken to Nadella about Bing replacing Google in Australia.

"I can tell you, Microsoft's pretty confident" that Australians would not be worse off, Morrison said on Monday.

Smith said he had assured the government leaders that small businesses who wished to transfer their advertising from Google to Bing could do so simply and without transfer costs.

"We believe that the current legislative proposal represents a fundamental step towards a more level playing field and a fairer digital ecosystem for consumers, business and society," Smith said.

The Australia Institute's Center for Responsible Technology, an independent think tank, welcomed Microsoft's stance and called on Google to withdraw its threat to close its search services within Australia.

"This is a significant development and should send a message to both Google and Facebook that their network dominance in Australia is only as strong as their respect for Australians," the center's Director Peter Lewis said in a statement.

Although Bing is Australia's second most popular search engine, it has only a 3.6% market share, according to web analytics service Statcounter. Google says it has 95%.

Swinburne University senior lecturer on media Belinda Barnet said Bing and other search engines could fill the void left by Google and deliver benefits.

"People need to realize it will not be personalized in the sense that Google advertising in searches is, so Bing doesn't know and frankly doesn't care that you're in the market for yoga pants, for example," Barnet said.

"Some of these platforms, Google and Facebook in particular, feed you more misinformation if you're already prone to clicking on misnformation, so they create this echo chamber, in a sense," she said. "But a product like DuckDuckGo and Ecosia is not going to know that in the past you've looked at 100 articles about how vaccines are bad and they will just give you the most accurate information that they can find."

Peter Strong, chief executive of the Council of Small Business Organizations Australia, an advocacy group, expected the disruption to small businesses created by Google's departure from Australia would be short lived.

"We're not panicking," Strong said. "But it would have a short-term impact."

"It would be a bad thing if Google quits, but if Bing took over, the situation would be the same," he added. "One organization has the capacity to blackmail a country and that should never happen," he said, calling for more government regulation.

A Senate committee that is scrutinising the draft legislation will report to the government next week.

The mandatory code proposed by the government aims to make Google and Facebook pay Australian media companies fairly for using news content the tech giants siphon from news sites.

There are no plans to make smaller search engines such as Bing pay for linking users to Australian news, but the government has not ruled that option out.

Google has faced pressure from authorities elsewhere to pay for news. Last month, it signed a deal with a group of French publishers paving the way for the company to make digital copyright payments.

SpaceX's 2nd Starship test flight ends with another kaboom

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—SpaceX's second full test flight of its futuristic, bullet-shaped Starship ended in another fiery crash landing Tuesday.

Elon Musk's company launched its latest Starship prototype from the southeastern tip of Texas, two months after the previous test ended in an equally explosive belly flop.

The full-scale stainless steel rocket reached its intended altitude of 6.2 miles (10 kilometers), slightly lower than the last one. Everything seemed to be going well as the 160-foot (50-meter) Starship flipped on its side and began its descent. But it did not manage to straighten itself back up in time for a landing and slammed into the ground.

"We've just got to work on that landing a little bit," said SpaceX launch commentator John Insprucker. "Reminder—this is a test flight."

The next Starship stood nearby at the launch site in Boca Chica, Texas, during Tuesday's test, which lasted 6 1/2 minutes.

Musk is developing Starship to carry people to Mars, perhaps in as little as several years. It's the upper stage of his intended moon- and Mars-ships, meant to launch atop a mega rocket called Super Heavy that is still being developed.

SpaceX tried to launch Starship last week, but failed to get the necessary approval from the Federal Aviation Administration, prompting a Twitter outburst from Musk.

SpaceX did not comply with safety regulations for the Dec. 9 flight, an FAA spokesperson said Tuesday, and needed to take corrective action before proceeding with launch operations. Tuesday's flight met all safety criteria, according to the FAA.

Beetle keeps rivals off scent of food buried for offspring

Some beetles go to great—and disgusting—lengths for their children.

They scout for a dead mouse or bird, dig a hole and bury it, pluck its fur or feathers, roll its flesh into a ball and cover it in goop—all to feed their future offspring.

This November 2020 photo provided by Dr. Vanessa R. Lane shows a *Nicrophorus orbicollis* beetle in Georgia. AP

Now scientists think that goo might do more than just slow decay. It also appears to hide the scent of the decomposing bounty and boosts another odor that repels competitors.

"It helps them to hide their resource from others," said Stephen Trumbo, who studies animal behavior at the University of Connecticut and led the new research, published Thursday in The American Naturalist. "They try to keep everyone away."

The beetles—called burying beetles—aren't the only creatures who try to deceive their competitors or prey with subtle, sneaky tactics. Large blue butterflies, for example, will imitate certain sounds to manipulate ants. Corpse flowers produce rotting odors to attract insect pollinators that feed on decomposing matter.

The importance of these interactions are being recognized more and more, said Alexandre Figueiredo, a biologist at University of Zurich, who was not involved in the new study.

Burying beetles and other things that feed on dead animals—including vultures, opossums and maggots—race each other to track down carcasses. Competition is stiff even among burying beetles, which use special antennae to detect the remains from afar.

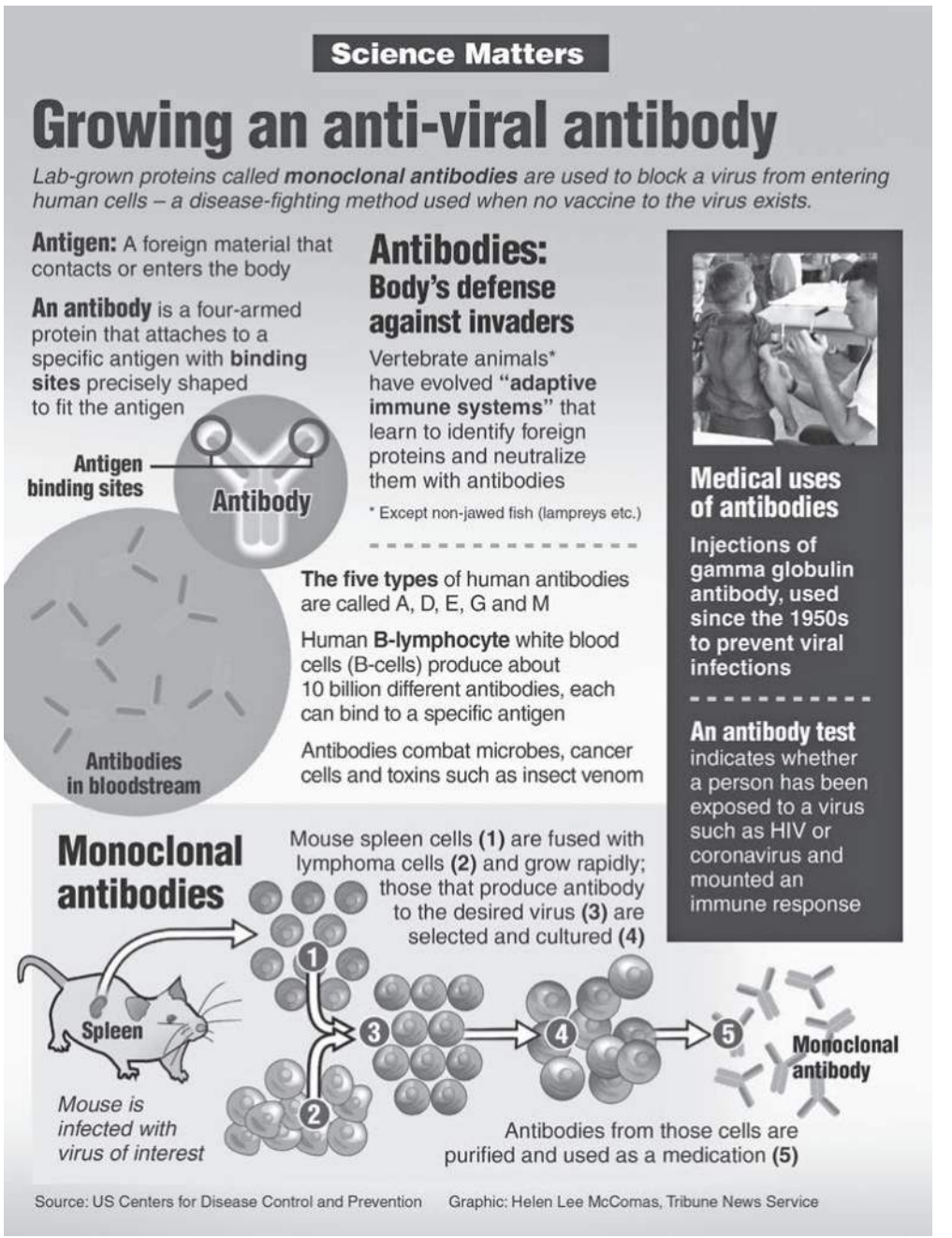
Burying beetles are relatively large, about an inch long, and black with orange markings. The gut secretions they spread on a carcass are antibacterial, and slow down decomposition. Trumbo and his colleagues wondered whether they also prevented rivals from picking up the scent.

To find out, they collected the gases wafting off dead hairless mice preserved by a kind of burying beetle that is found in forests across North America. The researchers then compared the gases to those from untouched carcasses.

The beetle-prepped ones gave off much less of an onion-smelling compound that usually attracts burying beetles to fresh remains. They also discovered an increase in another gas from decay that's known to deter other insects that feed on dead animals.

Next, they dropped off the dead mice in a Connecticut forest. They found the beetle's rivals were less likely to discover the ones covered in goop.

"If you can deter other scavengers, even for a little bit of time, it can buy you a lot," said Daniel Rozen, a biologist at Leiden University in the Netherlands who was not involved in the new study. ***(AP)***


Science Matters
Growing an anti-viral antibody
Lab-grown proteins called monoclonal antibodies are used to block a virus from entering human cells – a disease-fighting method used when no vaccine to the virus exists.
Antigen: A foreign material that contacts or enters the body
An antibody is a four-armed protein that attaches to a specific antigen with binding sites precisely shaped to fit the antigen
Antigen binding sites
Antibody
Antibodies in bloodstream
Antibodies: Body's defense against invaders
Vertebrate animals* have evolved "adaptive immune systems" that learn to identify foreign proteins and neutralize them with antibodies
* Except non-jawed fish (lampreys etc.)
The five types of human antibodies are called A, D, E, G and M
Human B-lymphocyte white blood cells (B-cells) produce about 10 billion different antibodies, each can bind to a specific antigen
Antibodies combat microbes, cancer cells and toxins such as insect venom
Medical uses of antibodies
Injections of gamma globulin antibody, used since the 1950s to prevent viral infections
An antibody test indicates whether a person has been exposed to a virus such as HIV or coronavirus and mounted an immune response
Monoclonal antibodies
Mouse spleen cells (1) are fused with lymphoma cells (2) and grow rapidly; those that produce antibody to the desired virus (3) are selected and cultured (4)
Spleen
Mouse is infected with virus of interest
Antibodies from those cells are purified and used as a medication (5)
Monoclonal antibody
Source: US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

Life & Style

With 'Mank' and 'The Crown,' Netflix dominates Globes noms

NEW YORK (AP)—After a year where the pandemic nearly emptied movie theaters, Netflix dominated nominations to the 78th Golden Globe Awards on Wednesday, with David Fincher's "Mank" leading film nominees with six nods and "The Crown" topping all television series.

The Globes, delayed about two months due to the coronavirus, tried to muster some of the awards' usual buzz on Wednesday in a largely virtual awards season bereft the kind of red-carpet glamour the Globes annually feast on. And perhaps to account for the otherwise lack of it, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association heaped nominations on two lavish period pieces rich in royalty—both the Hollywood variety (the black-and-white "Mank" dramatizes the making of "Citizen Kane") and the British kind.

"Mank," about "Citizen Kane" co-writer Herman Mankiewicz, landed nominations for best film, drama; best actor for Gary Oldman; best director for Fincher, best supporting actress for Amanda Seyfried; best score; and best screenplay for Jack Fincher, the director's father who penned the script before dying in 2003.

"Sometimes you just have to think, what does it mean in the whole big scheme of things with this worldwide, global thing going on," Oldman said from London. "But you know, we want to kind of get back to some kind of normalcy. Life goes on."

Netflix, which topped all studios at the Globes last year, too, led with a commanding 42 nominations, with 22 coming in film categories and 20 in television. No other studio was close.

In this image released by Netflix, Gary Oldman portrays Herman Mankiewicz in a scene from "Mank." AP

"The Crown" landed six nominations including best series, drama, and acting nods for Olivia Colman and Josh O'Connor. The final season of "Schitt's Creek" trailed with five nominations, while Netflix's "Ozark" (four nods) and "The Queen's Gambit" (two nods) also added to the streamer's totals. ("Queens Gambit" star Anya Taylor-Joy was nominated for both the hit show and for the Jane Austen adaptation "Emma.")

Young reader's edition of Michelle Obama's book out in March

NEW YORK (AP)—Michelle Obama's "Becoming" is heading for new chapters.

Penguin Random House announced Wednesday that the former first lady's multi-million-selling memoir will be released in a young readers edition. It also will finally be coming out as a paperback, more than two years after it was first published. "Becoming" has sold more than 10 million copies worldwide.

Both books are scheduled for March 2. The young readers edition is for ages 10 and up and includes a new introduction from Obama.

"Growing up on the South Side of Chicago in the 1960s and '70s, my parents, Fraser and Marian Robinson, always kept it straight with me and my brother, Craig. They never sugarcoated hard truths or presented their reality as anything other than what it was—because they knew we could handle it. I want to give you all that same respect," she writes.

"So my promise to you is to give you my story in all its messy glory—from the time I struggled in front of my kindergarten class, to my first kiss and the insecurities I felt growing up, to the chaos of a campaign trail, to the strange experience of shaking hands with the Queen of England. . . . I hope that as you're reading my story, you'll also think about your own—because it's the most beautiful gift you'll ever have."

The paperback edition also features a new introduction by the author, along with a book club guide.

China not convinced by Canada's Wu-Tang Clan explanation

BEIJING (AP)— A ruckus brought by China over Canadian T-shirts bearing an altered logo of the New York hip-hop group Wu-Tang Clan continued Wednesday, with China's Foreign Ministry saying it didn't buy Canada's explanation that the shirts were not an insult linked to the coronavirus.

Canada's Foreign Ministry said this week that the shirts using the "W" logo of the Wu-Tang Clan but with the group's name replaced with "Wuhan" was not intended as a slight. It apologized for any misunderstanding.

The Chinese-made T-shirts were reportedly ordered last summer by someone at the Canadian Embassy in Beijing and word of them began circulating recently on the internet in China.

Chinese critics say the "W" is actually a bat and the shirt is meant to imply a connection between the animals and the virus outbreak in the city of Wuhan, playing on a stereotype about the Chinese taste for eating exotic species. The virus that causes COVID-19 is suspected of originating in bats and its outbreak was first detected in Wuhan.

Singer Morgan Wallen suspended from label after racial slur

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Country star Morgan Wallen has been suspended indefinitely from his label and seen his music pulled by radio stations and streaming services Wednesday after video surfaced of him shouting a racial slur.

Wallen

Big Loud Records said in a statement that Wallen's contract has been suspended indefinitely. Republic Records, which he is co-signed to, said it agreed with Big Loud's decision and said "such behavior will not be tolerated."

The video, which was first published by TMZ on Tuesday night, showed Wallen outside a home in Nashville, Tennessee, yelling profanities and a racial slur.

Wallen said in a statement to TMZ that he is embarrassed and sorry.

"I used an unacceptable and inappropriate racial slur that I wish I could take back. There are no excuses to use this type of language, ever. I want to sincerely apologize for using the word. I promise to do better," his statement said.

He's one of the genre's biggest young stars. His sophomore album, "Dangerous: The Double Album," is spending its third week atop the Billboard 200 chart and it has set several streaming records, even besting the recent release from country star Luke Combs. Wallen is also one of the few country acts to score a Top 10 hit on the pop charts, thanks to the success of "7 Summers" and "Wasted on You."

But the fall from the top has been swift.

"In light of Morgan Wallen's recent actions involving the use of a racial slur, we have made the decision to remove his music and content from our stations effective immediately," according to a statement from iHeartMedia, which has hundreds of radio stations across the country.

The Academy of Country Music, which is currently taking nominations for their annual awards show in April, said in a statement they would "halt" Wallen's eligibility for this year's show and will also be reviewing the awards eligibility and submission process. "The Academy does not condone or support intolerance or behavior that does not align with our commitment and dedication to diversity and inclusion," the ACM statement said.

Woman's boyfriend preoccupied with her previous relationship

DEAR ABBY: My sister "Darby" and I are in our 20s and confused about the relationship she is in. She's 23 and has been dating a 22-year-old man. They fight a lot because he can't stop talking about her ex-boyfriend. He says he visualizes her having sex with him, and is frustrated with himself for not being able to get the images out of his head. Is there a name for this particular problem, and how can Darby work with it?

SUPPORTIVE SIS IN THE WEST

DEAR SIS: Yes, actually, there are two names for this "condition." They are obsession and jealousy, and both are signs of potential control issues. Stay close to your sister and be there for her, because this young man's behavior is a red flag.

Darby and her boyfriend are both adults. I assume neither came to the relationship wrapped in cellophane. His fixation should not be hers (or yours) to fix. Because he can't get the images out of his head, he should schedule a few sessions with a licensed psychotherapist, since his problem will continue the longer he is in the dating world.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I moved in with my boyfriend six years ago. A year ago, his adult daughter decided she would have all her internet purchases sent to his home. Abby, these packages arrive every day, all week long. I'm tired of it. I think she's a spend-aholic.

I told him at the beginning of our relationship that I would never come between him and his daughter. But it has become a bit much. She calls him for every little thing. Now she has started asking him to help with his granddaughter's homework. I have two adult children of my own and grandchildren. Am I overreacting? I'm ready to move out and on.

OVER IT AND OUT

DEAR OVER IT: Before moving out and on, discuss this with your boyfriend of six years. His daughter seems to be unusually dependent for an adult. Is there a reason why she's doing these things? Could she be fearful that the packages she's ordering could be stolen from her porch? Does her daughter need more help academically than she is able to provide? The answers to those questions could be enlightening. After you get those answers, there will be time to make a rational (rather than emotional) decision about the status of the relationship you have with her father.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am a 52-year-old single, straight male. For some reason, only men seem to be attracted to me. If I sit at a table in a restaurant or bar, a man will come over and sit next to me. If I go to the park, a man will sit next to me on the bench. Walking down the street, random men approach me. It's terrible. I'm straight! Please help!

UNIQUE PROBLEM IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR UNIQUE PROBLEM: Because you're not meeting women, try to put yourself in situations where you will meet them. Because you are consistently approached by men and you're not interested, consider asking them if they have a female relative who's single. And when you encounter a woman you think you can click with, speak up and introduce yourself.

■■■

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

COPYRIGHT 2021 ANDREWS MCMEEL SYNDICATION

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

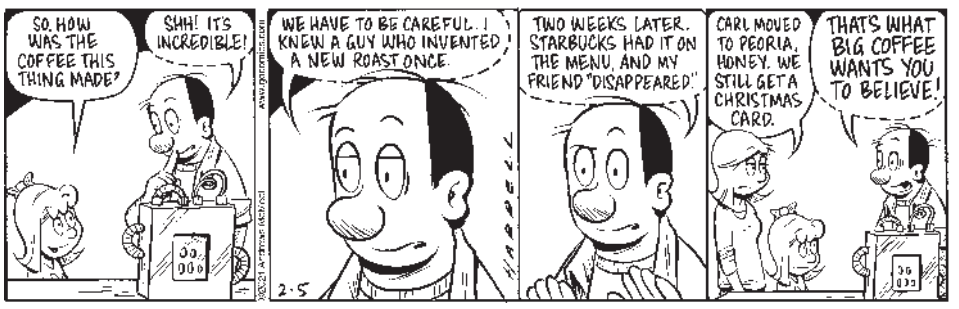
I LIKE SLEDDING DOWN HILLS, BUT I HATE HAVING TO CLIMB BACK UP!
IT'S TOO MUCH WORK! IT'S BORING! IT'S SLOW!
I KNOW! I'LL SIT ON THE SLED AND YOU PULL ME UP, OK? RUN AS FAST AS YOU CAN, AND ZIGZAG AROUND TREES AND STUFF!
EVEN MY FRIENDS DON'T DO WHAT I WANT.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

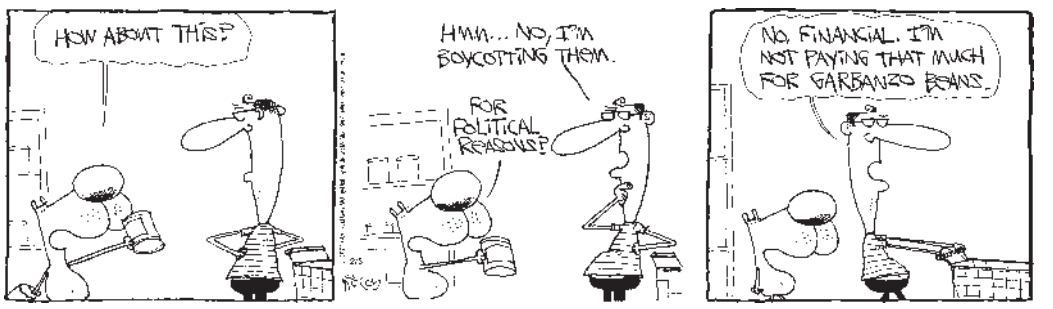
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


SO, HOW WAS THE COFFEE THIS THING MADE?
SHH! IT'S INCREDIBLE!
WE HAVE TO BE CAREFUL. I KNEW A GUY WHO INVENTED A NEW ROAST ONCE.
TWO WEEKS LATER. STARBUCKS HAD IT ON THE MENU, AND MY FRIEND "DISAPPEARED."
CARL MOVED TO PEORIA, HONEY. WE STILL GET A CHRISTMAS CARD.
THAT'S WHAT BIG COFFEE WANTS YOU TO BELIEVE!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Dean's list stat
4 Alphabet starter
7 Pickle juice
12 Coffee vessel
13 401(k) alternative
14 Devour
15 Chaney of horror films
16 Othello's wife
18 "I love," in Latin
19 Nymph pursuer
20 Maja painter
22 Mao — -tung
23 Taxi alternative
27 Homer's cry
29 Explorer Hernando
31 Birdlike
34 TV's "The — Project"
35 Tyrant
37 Gaiety
38 Gov. division
39 Greek H
41 Squirrels do it
45 Car pedal
47 "— Loved You" ("Carousel" song)
48 Characterized
52 "Smoking or —?"
53 Suspect's excuse
54 URL ending
55 Average guy
56 Equine
57 Sugary suffix
58 Gore and Green

DOWN

1 Soviet labor camp
2 Teaser ad
3 Pester
4 Helps
5 Aspiration
6 Broadway rosters
7 Tavern order
8 Zodiac animal
9 Judge in 1995 news
10 Convent manager
11 Ecol. watchdog
17 Turned blue?
21 Conform
23 Exploiting
24 "— voyage!"
25 Timetable abbr.
26 Trigger's rider
28 Music's Yoko
30 Ostrich's kin
31 Put two and two together?
32 Geese formation
33 WWW access enabler
36 Actress Hatcher
37 Imposters
40 Forbidden
42 Martial arts mercenary
43 "Don't play me for —!"
44 Cellar stock
45 Party cheese
46 Rim
48 Doo follower
49 "Xanadu" band
50 Knightly address
51 "Blue Bloods" network

Solution time: 25 mins.

B	A	A		O	R	B	S		E	A	C	H
O	I	L		W	O	H	E		M	C	I	I
A	L	L	C	L	E	A	R		E	A	I	S
			S	E	E		D		A	R	I	E	S
D	E	P	O	T	S		F	I	G			
A	R	I		S	E	C		F	E	C	U	T
M	I	C	E		Z	A	C		S	A	H	A
S	C	E	N	T		B	A	H		I	D	S
			T	A	B		R	E	S	C	U	E
D	E	B	R		E	F		A	A	H		
O	B	O	E		T	E	L	L	S	A	L	L
E	A	S	E		S	I	E	I		L	E	I
H	Y	E	S		Y	E	A	H		L	S	D

Yesterday's answer 2-5

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	■	7	8	9	10	11
12			■	13			■	14				
15			■	16			17					
18			■	19					■	■	■	■
20			21	■	22			■	23	24	25	26
■	■	■	27	28		■	29	30				
31	32	33			■	■	■	34				
35					36	■	37			■	■	■
38				■	39	40		■	41	42	43	44
■	■	■	■	45				46	■	47		
48	49	50	51						■	52		
53					■	54			■	55		
56					■	57			■	58		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Davis Cleveland, 19; Darren Criss, 34; Michael Sheen, 52; Jennifer Jason Leigh, 59.

Happy Birthday: Tune in to what's going on around you, observe, listen, and you will know what's best for you. Refuse to let outside interference lead you astray or allow temptation to be your downfall. Concentrate on what you can do and how best to achieve your goals. This is a year of transformation; keep it simple, peaceful and cost-efficient. Your numbers are 4, 11, 21, 23, 27, 32, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Put your money and possessions in a safe place. Handle financial matters responsibly. Don't go into debt that will exceed your budget. A contract may be challenged due to unforeseen circumstance. Protect your health and reputation. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* A discussion or plan may not go the way you want, but it will help you see what you have to overcome. Evaluate your position, and you'll find an innovative way to reverse a problem you face. Anger will get you nowhere. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* You'll get everything under control if you take matters into your own hands. Don't let anyone push you in a direction that doesn't feel right. Use your intelligence, follow your instincts and do what will benefit you most. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Invest in your ideas and future. A contract will have more to offer than you first realized. Get all your facts clear and make the necessary adjustments; you'll get what you want. Negotiate on your behalf. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Don't worry about what others do; choose the path that speaks to you personally. Physical improvements will fetch compliments, and personal growth will lead to enlightenment. Choose to broaden your horizons; you'll discover peace, love and happiness. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Stick to the truth when dealing with friends, relatives and peers, and you will spare yourself grief. Refuse to let temptation take over and mistakes unfold. If you want a change, go about getting it the right way. Put honor and integrity first. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Reach out to friends, relatives and peers. You'll gain insight into what's possible. Your suggestions will help you realize who you can count on and who you cannot. Be prepared to do the bulk of the work yourself. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* You'll face a dilemma that can affect your reputation or relationship with a friend, relative or peer. Think before you say or do something that will change your life. Weigh the pros and cons. Where there is doubt, retreat. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Don't reveal secrets. What you share will become common knowledge in your circle. Spend more time on self-improvement and less with people who are trying to entice you or lead you astray. Choose to take the high road. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Keep your life simple, run your home efficiently and stay out of trouble. If you get involved in other people's business, someone will accuse you of meddling. Be a good listener, but for best results, keep your opinions to yourself. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Stand back, keep an open mind and learn through observation. Refuse to let what others do entice you to make a poor decision. When uncertain, do your own thing and keep your plans to yourself. Self-improvement and personal growth are favored. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Don't let anger set in when aggressively plowing forward toward a goal offers so much more in return. Set your sights on what's important to you. Refuse to let anyone or anything stand in your way. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are mindful, charming and protective. You are emotional and giving.

1 star: *Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes.* **2 stars:** *You can accomplish, but don't rely on others.* **3 stars:** *Focus and you'll reach your goals.* **4 stars:** *Aim high; start new projects.* **5 stars:** *Nothing can stop you; go for gold.*

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn. Copyright 2021 Andrews McMeel Syndication

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			3	1		7		
		8				4		
4	1						5	
			4		2			9
7								3
2			1		8			
	6						1	2
		2				6		
		1		6	9			

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 2/05

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

1	7	4	8	5	2	9	3	6
5	9	6	1	7	3	8	4	2
3	8	2	9	4	6	1	5	7
6	1	3	7	9	5	4	2	8
8	2	7	6	1	4	3	9	5
9	4	5	2	3	8	6	7	1
7	5	9	3	8	1	2	6	4
4	6	8	5	2	9	7	1	3
2	3	1	4	6	7	5	8	9

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

SCHOOLING ONLINE — Solution: 6 letters

Y	U	C	R	E	D	I	T	S	T	L	E	A	R	N
E	R	N	W	O	R	K	M	E	R	T	E	X	T	S
P	R	A	I	O	I	C	N	A	O	E	M	A	I	L
R	P	A	T	V	V	R	D	M	X	A	Ⓗ	Ⓞ	Ⓜ	Ⓔ
O	O	U	W	N	E	N	E	A	R	E	M	A	C	C
C	T	I	N	T	E	R	A	C	T	I	V	E	S	T
E	K	R	N	L	F	M	S	C	O	E	Y	T	C	U
S	S	I	A	T	V	O	E	I	A	R	U	Z	L	R
S	E	C	N	E	I	C	S	L	T	D	D	E	A	E
O	D	I	E	S	R	U	O	C	E	Y	E	S	S	L
R	R	H	R	E	T	N	E	N	O	H	P	M	S	A
P	E	N	S	I	U	S	T	E	L	B	A	T	Y	E
H	S	U	P	A	A	S	D	A	E	R	P	A	T	H
S	O	C	I	A	L	H	R	E	T	S	E	M	E	S
M	I	D	D	L	E	F	C	Y	R	A	R	B	I	L

© 2021 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 2/5

Academy, Calendar, Camera, Chair, Class, Course, Cram, Credits, Desktop, Drive, Elementary, Email, Exam, Flash, Heal, Home, Interactive, Internet, Lazy, Learn, Lecture, Library, Middle, Mouse, Path, Pens, Phone, Print, Processor, Push, Read, Records, Remote, Sciences, Semester, Social, Software, Students, Tablets, Text, Tutor, University, Virtual, Work

Yesterday's Answer: Vintage

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand! Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

Doncic, Mavs snap 6-game skid, hold off Hawks

ATLANTA (AP)— Luka Doncic scored 27 points and dished out 14 assists as the Dallas Mavericks snapped a six-game losing streak, defeating Trae Young and the Atlanta Hawks 122-116 on Wednesday night.

Kristaps Porzingis added 24 points and 11 rebounds for the Mavericks, including a crucial tip-in off a miss by Doncic with 32 seconds remaining that helped Dallas hold off a furious Atlanta comeback.

Winning was a big relief for the Mavericks.

After a game that was tight for three quarters, the Mavericks pulled away at the start of the fourth and held on to snap their longest losing streak since a seven-game skid from March 2-14, 2019.

"It wasn't perfect," Doncic said. "But we got the win, and that's all that matters to me. We were so happy after the game. It's been a tough stretch."

Doncic came up just two rebounds shy of another triple-double.

AP

Dallas Mavericks guard Luka Doncic dribbles in front of Atlanta Hawks forward Danilo Gallinari during the second half of an NBA game Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2021, in Atlanta.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic	W	L	PCT	GB
Philadelphia	16	6	.727	0.0
Brooklyn	14	9	.609	2.5
Boston	11	9	.550	4.0
New York	10	13	.435	6.5
Toronto	9	12	.429	6.5
Central				
Milwaukee	13	8	.619	0.0
Indiana	12	10	.545	1.5
Cleveland	10	12	.455	3.5
Chicago	8	12	.400	4.5
Detroit	5	16	.238	8.0
Southeast				
Atlanta	10	11	.476	0.0
Charlotte	10	12	.455	0.5
Orlando	8	14	.364	2.5
Miami	7	14	.333	3.0
Washington	5	13	.278	3.5

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Pacific	W	L	PCT	GB
LA Clippers	17	6	.739	0.0
LA Lakers	16	6	.727	0.5
Phoenix	11	9	.550	4.5
Golden State	11	10	.524	5.0
Sacramento	10	11	.476	6.0
Southwest				
Memphis	9	7	.563	0.0
San Antonio	12	10	.545	0.0
Houston	10	10	.500	1.0
Dallas	9	13	.409	3.0
New Orleans	8	12	.400	3.0
Northwest				
Utah	16	5	.762	0.0
Denver	12	8	.600	3.5
Portland	11	9	.550	4.5
Oklahoma City	9	11	.450	6.5
Minnesota	5	16	.238	11.0

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

76ers 118, Hornets 111

In Charlotte, Joel Embiid had 34 points and 11 rebounds, and the Philadelphia 76ers beat the Hornets for their fourth straight win.

Tobias Harris scored 26 points and Ben Simmons added 15 points and nine assists for the 76ers, who stretched their winning streak against the Hornets to 14 games, tied for the longest active streak in the NBA. The Clippers have also won 14 straight against the Magic.

Gordon Hayward and LaMelo Ball each had 22 points for the Hornets.

Clippers 121, Cavaliers 99

In Cleveland, Paul George made a season-high eight 3-pointers and scored 36 points, Kawhi Leonard added 24 and Los Angeles found enough energy on tired legs to end a six-game road trip with a victory over the Cavaliers.

Just 24 hours after dropping a tight game in Brooklyn that had an NBA Finals vibe, the Clippers made 20 3-pointers to avoid losing two straight for the first time this season.

Bucks 130, Pacers 110

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 21 points, 14 rebounds and 10 assists despite sitting out the fourth quarter, and the Bucks routed Indiana.

The reigning two-time MVP shot 7 of 8 from the floor and 7 of 8 from the line in a remarkably efficient performance.

Indiana's Domantas Sabonis scored a career-high 33 points and had 12 rebounds and six assists.

Kings 116, Celtics 111

In California, De'Aaron Fox had 26 points and 11 assists, Buddy Hield made two free throws with six-tenths of a second remaining and Sacramento held off short-handed Boston.

Hield finished with 15 points and 11 rebounds, Harrison Barnes scored 24 points and Tyrese Haliburton added 21.

Jayson Tatum had 27 points, 10 assists and nine rebounds for the Celtics. Jaylen Brown scored 21. Boston played without three of its top ballhandlers due to injuries.

Wizards 103, Heat 100

In Miami, Bradley Beal scored 32 points and Washington rallied from a 13-point, second-half deficit to beat the freefalling Heat.

Deni Avdija added 13 for Washington, which pulled off this comeback just three nights after digging its way out of an 18-point hole to beat the Brooklyn Nets.

Rui Hachimura and Davis Bertans each scored 11 for Washington.

Knicks 107, Bulls 103

In Chicago, Julius Randle scored 27 points and tied a career high by hitting five 3-pointers, and New York beat the Bulls.

Elfrid Payton added 20 points and eight rebounds. RJ Barrett scored 17, and the Knicks picked up the win after dropping five of six.

Zach LaVine led Chicago with 24 points.

Thunder 104, Rockets 87

In Oklahoma City, Kenrich Williams scored 19 points and the Thunder bounced back from a 30-point loss two days earlier and beat Houston.

Darius Bazley had 18 points and a career-high 12 rebounds, Al Horford scored 17 points and Hamidou Diallo added 16 for the Thunder.

Spurs 111, Timberwolves 108

In San Antonio, DeMar DeRozan scored 30 points and San Antonio rallied from a 16-point deficit to beat Minnesota.

Jakob Poeltl added 19 points and Dejounte Murray had 15 points and 11 rebounds.

Malik Beasley scored 29 points and D'Angelo Russell added 20 for Minnesota, which was outscored 32-18 in the final quarter. The Timberwolves dropped to 1-9 on the road this season.

Pelicans 123, Suns 101

In New Orleans, Zion Williamson punctuated a 28-point performance with a soaring, one-handed alley-oop jam during a decisive fourth-quarter surge, and the Pelicans routed Phoenix.

Brandon Ingram scored 23 and Lonzo Ball added 18 points for New Orleans, which led by as many as 28 in the fourth quarter en route to ending a two-game slide while also stopping the Suns' winning streak at three.

Televisions
Tablets
FANTASTIC 4 FEBRUARY
Phones
Computers
70" UHD LED 4K Smart TV $24.95/week
55" Active HDR 4K Smart TV $14.95/week
65" Active HDR LED 4K Smart TV $20.95/week
iPad Mini 4 $13.95/week
iPhone XR $19.95/week
iPhone 11 $23.95/week
Galaxy S10 Plus $20.95/week
Galaxy S20 Plus $24.95/week
HP 15" Laptop $15.95/week
Acer 15" Laptop $15.95/week
Aspire All-In-One 23.8" Computer $19.95/week
*This is a rent to own transaction. You don't own the product until all rental payments are completed. Example: $9.95 x 12 months=$517.40. Some restrictions apply, see store for details.
NO CREDIT CHECKS
CHALAN KANOA 234-DIAL | MIDDLE ROAD 234-RENT
DIAL Rent-to-Own

Super Bowl could be farewell for pending free agents

TAMPA BAY (AP)—It's unlikely Patrick Mahomes and Tom Brady will have their same receiving corps next season.

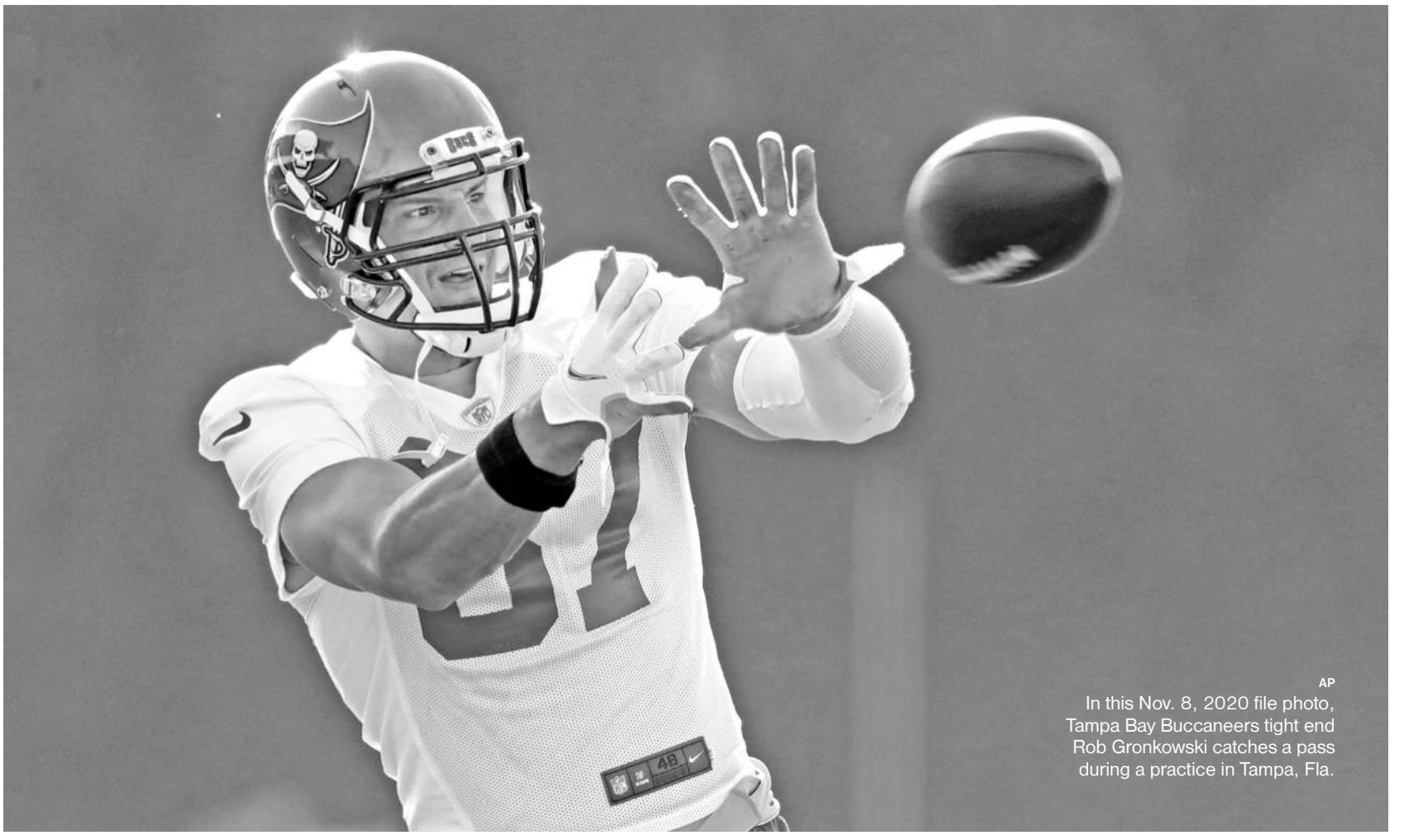
Kansas City and Tampa Bay have several starters, including some notable pass catchers, scheduled to become free agents next month. With the NFL salary cap going down for the first time since 2011—it's projected to decrease by more than $20 million because of COVID-19 repercussions—teams will have difficult decisions to make in the coming weeks.

So the Super Bowl between the Chiefs and Buccaneers will serve as a farewell for several players with their current team. Here's a look at some of the game's most prominent names slated to hit the open market:

Bucs pass rusher Shaq Barrett, who led the NFL with 19½ sacks in 2019, played under a one-year, $15.9 million franchise tag in 2020. He has 11 sacks this season, including three in the NFC championship game against Green Bay. Tampa is close to $30 million under the estimated salary cap and might spend a good chunk of it on the 28-year-old linebacker.

"I'm not expecting that I would be going anywhere else," said Barrett, who rented a home the last two years and wants to "start laying roots" in Tampa.

Chiefs running back LeVeon Bell made nearly $14 million in 2020, with most of that being paid by the New York Jets. He considered signing with Buffalo and Miami before landing in Kansas City, which is unlikely to bring him back. The Chiefs are an estimated $20 million over the projected cap.



AP
In this Nov. 8, 2020 file photo, Tampa Bay Buccaneers tight end Rob Gronkowski catches a pass during a practice in Tampa, Fla.

Bucs receiver Antonio Brown might be out of the league if not for Brady. Brown signed a one-year, $1.6 million contract with Tampa in late October and has been a model citizen since. Although he might want to test free agency, it's unclear if anyone would take a chance on him.

Bucs linebacker Lavonte David has been a mainstay in Tampa's lineup for nine years. He's wrapping up a five-year, $50.25 million deal, but no one would be surprised to see the 31-year-old defensive leader remain in his home state (maybe even at a discounted rate) for the rest of his pro career.

Tampa Bay running back Leonard Fournette was cut by Jacksonville days before the regular season and landed in Tampa on a one-year, $2.5 million deal. He has provided a nice 1-2 punch with Ronald Jones, but likely will head elsewhere in hopes of becoming a featured back again.

"When I'm healthy, the sky's the limit," Fournette said.

Bucs receiver Chris Godwin missed several games early this season, but the 2017 third-round draft pick from Penn State has proven his worth with five touchdown catches in the last six games. General manager Jason Licht insists Godwin is in the team's long-term plans.

"I'm very much aware off all those different possibilities, but what I've done this whole season is to not focus on it," Godwin said. "At this point, all of those things are out of my control."

Veteran tight end Rob Gronkowski came out of retirement to join Brady in Tampa and be close to his mom in Fort Myers. He started every game for the first time since 2011. He has 45 receptions for 623 yards and seven touchdowns after signing a one-year, $9 million deal. If he wants to play another season, the Bucs will find a way to make it work.

Bucs running back LeSean McCoy has a chance to become the ninth player in NFL history to collect consecutive Super Bowl rings with different teams, joining an exclusive club that includes Deion Sanders and LeGarrette Blount. He's already weighing his future: whether to stick around a little longer as a backup or retire at age 32.

"If I get a second championship, with everything I've accomplished, it might be over," he said. "You never know. I'll revisit that later."

Chiefs receiver Demarcus Robinson is third on the team with a career-high 45 catches after signing a one-year deal to remain in Kansas City. He hasn't missed a game in five seasons, but the Chiefs wouldn't miss him much if he walked.

Chiefs safety Daniel Sorensen is having a career year. He led the team with 91 tackles in the regular season to go along with three interceptions. He's on the wrong side of 30, but he would be a bargain at $4 million a year.

Bucs defensive lineman Ndamukong Suh made six sacks while starting every game for the ninth consecutive season. He turned 34 last month and might be willing to sign another one-year deal to stay in Tampa.

Organizers say Australian Open will start on time

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—There were 160 players back in isolation because a hotel quarantine worker tested positive for COVID-19.

Six tuneup tournaments were suspended for a day so that 507 people connected with the Australian Open could be tested for the virus.

Apparently, no worries.

Australian Open organizers weren't deterred at all, vowing that the year's first Grand Slam tournament would start as planned next Monday, with all the tuneup tournaments completed —somehow, tweaks are expected—between Friday and Sunday.

The one-day shutdown was triggered—the Victoria state premier, a leading health official and Australian Open tournament director Craig Tiley all said—out of "an abundance of caution."

"We are absolutely confident the Australian Open is going to go ahead," Tiley told a news conference Thursday against the backdrop of an almost deserted Melbourne Park. "We will be starting on Monday and we have no intention of changing times."

Preparations have already been disruptive and chaotic for the so-called Happy Slam, even compared with some recent troubles.

Organizers and players have had to deal with searing heatwaves some years. In 2020, acrid smoke from deadly bushfires overshadowed the leadup to the tournament.

Everyone adapted, the show went on. Novak Djokovic won his eighth Australian Open title in late January 2020, and Sofia Kenin won her first major.

Two months later, the Formula One season had a false start when the Australian Grand Prix was called off before an official practice session could be staged. Drivers and teams had flown in from Europe. There were thousands of fans queuing up to enter Melbourne's Albert Park circuit. Still, the government shut it down.

Tiley was confident tennis wouldn't go the same way as the F1 GP.

"The event that we have planned and the lead-in events—we're absolutely confident it's going to go ahead," Tiley said. "The probability is very low that there's going to be an issue."

He said he'd expected all 160 players involved to have been tested by 5 p.m. and a schedule for Friday after that. The draw for the Australian was pushed back almost 24 hours to Friday, sometime in the mid-afternoon.

Uncertainty is the only certainty for players and the tennis tours.

The Australian Open chartered 17 flights and used three hotels in Melbourne for the bulk of the players to quarantine for 14 days and had other secure accommodation and facilities in Adelaide, South Australia state, for some of the biggest stars, including Serena Williams, Naomi Osaka, Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal.

Of those, 72 players were forced into hard lockdown after passengers on their flights later returned positive tests for the virus. Unlike the bulk of the players, they weren't allowed out for five hours of supervised daily practice during quarantine.

All players were tested daily during quarantine and all were cleared before the tuneup tournaments began this week.

Some got a surprise notification before midnight Wednesday.

Organizers were in touch with 507 people quickly asking them to isolate and giving instructions on how to undergo testing soon after Victoria state premier Daniel Andrews held a news conference at 10:30 p.m. Wednesday to announce the new case and some new restrictions for Melbourne.

Anyone who quarantined at the Grand Hyatt hotel in Melbourne was deemed to be casual contacts of the 26-year-old infected quarantine worker.

"Players and their teams in there between Jan. 16-29 were immediately notified that when they got up at 9 a.m. we'd start testing, then stay in isolation until they got permission from the health authorities to leave," Tiley said.

The other players, he said, were allowed into Melbourne Park for practice or to receive treatment.

Some took up the option. Among them, John Millman had an afternoon hit on Court 16, one of the outside courts.

He used up all his time, giving those waiting for the court some regular, friendly updates, "Five more minutes. One more game. One more point!"

He finished in a blustery breeze strong enough to knock over some potted trees dotted around for decoration.

And that also could be a problem. The forecast is for wind and rain, possibly a thunderstorm on Friday for Melbourne. That could play havoc with an already overcrowded schedule.

Not even that kind of forecast concerned Tiley.

"We are full steam ahead on planning what we've planning all along for this event," he said.

Pacific Mini Games 2022 seeks CEO

The Pacific Mini Games 2022 Organizing Committee is accepting applications for a chief executive officer who oversee the management of the event scheduled for June 2022 in the Northern Marianas.

Twenty-four countries and territories throughout the Pacific have been invited to participate in the Pacific Mini Games, a multi-sport event governed by the Pacific Games Council as a scaled-down version of the Pacific Games.

"The CEO will work closely with myself, sub-committee chairpersons, and other stakeholders and must be an experienced and competent individual who will lead decision-making toward the preparation and completion of the Games," said Pacific Mini Games 2022 Organizing Committee chair Marco Peter.

"Organizational awareness, problem solving, networking, project management, communication and service delivery are key competencies for this role. A college degree in financial disciplines or business management are also recommended, among other skills and competencies. We welcome all applicants, and we look forward to welcoming the right person aboard for this important role," Peter added.

The salary scale is $60,000-$80,000, and a college degree in finance disciplines or business management is recommended.

For more information, contact the Pacific Mini Games 2022 Organizing Committee at marianassports@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Twins bring back DH Cruz, add Colome to bullpen

The Minnesota Twins have bolstered their bullpen by acquiring right-hander Alex Colomé. AP

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The Minnesota Twins are bringing back designated hitter Nelson Cruz and bolstering their bullpen with right-hander Alex Colomé, making two more major moves as spring training fast approaches.

Cruz's one-year deal is worth $13 million, according to a person with knowledge of the negotiations. The contract for Colomé will cover at least one year and $6.25 million, with $5 million for 2021 and an option for 2022 at $5.5 million that can be declined by the Twins for a $1.25 million buyout, according to a second person with knowledge of those negotiations.

Both people spoke Wednesday to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because each deal was pending a physical.

Cruz turned 40 last season and batted .303 with 16 homers, 33 RBIs and a .992 OPS in 53 games during the pandemic-shortened schedule. Colomé, who had 12 saves and an 0.81 ERA in 21 games for the division rival Chicago White Sox in 2020, likely will step in as the primary closer.

Cruz has led the team in homers in each of his two years with the Twins while ranking second and fourth, respectively, in the AL in OPS. The six-time All-Star won Silver Slugger awards in 2019 and 2020, and the Twins won the AL Central both seasons.

Just as valuable to the club has been Cruz's leadership, with his laid-back demeanor, hard-working attitude and an ability to mentor players like first baseman Miguel Sanó, a fellow native of the Dominican Republic. Cruz played through a ruptured tendon in his wrist in 2019. He won the Marvin Miller Man of the Year award in 2020 in a vote by his major league peers, earning respect around the game for his efforts to donate a fire engine and an ambulance and help build a police station in his hometown of Las Matas De Santa Cruz.

No player in the major leagues has more home runs over the last seven seasons than Cruz (260), who also has the third-most RBIs (663) during that span, according to Sportradar.

Cruz served a 50-game suspension in 2013, his last of eight seasons with the Texas Rangers, for violating the major league drug agreement in relation to the sport's investigation of the Biogenesis of America anti-aging clinic. At the time, he said he erred in judgment in the wake of a gastrointestinal infection that wasn't accurately diagnosed at first and caused him to lose 40 pounds before getting proper treatment.

Minnesota dropped from second in the majors in runs in 2019 to 19th in 2020, with several position players in and out of the lineup because of injuries. Cruz was about the only constant, despite being at least 10 years older than most of the regulars.

ENTRY

From Page 24

spearfishing, swimming, table tennis, va'a (canoe), weightlifting, wrestling, and Micronesian All-Around.

NMSA has requested that federations submit the filled-out numerical entry form on or before Feb. 12, as the association will consolidate the lists before turning them over to the 2022 Micronesian Games Organizing Committee mid this month.

In the last Micronesian Games (2018) held in Yap, the CNMI sent more than 100 delegates with the Commonwealth's athletes participating in baseball, athletics, men's and women's basketball, canoe, men's indoor volleyball, weightlifting, and swimming. Team Marianas went on to bring home 36 medals (nine golds, 18 silvers, and nine bronzes) with weightlifting contributing the most golds (six).

Miami Beat

MARKSMAN
By MARK RABAGO
Associate Editor

Growing up Mark wanted to play pro basketball. When his talent and height didn't measure up, he opted for a career in journalism instead.

The Miami Heat might as well change their name to Miami Beat as everyone in the Association is just beating them this season and you can no longer blame COVID-19 for the woes of coach Erik Spoelstra's team.

It's as if midnight has struck for last season's surprise Eastern Conference champions and NBA finalists and its overachieving role players have turned back into mice and pumpkins.

Yesterday's loss against the equally inept Washington Wizards (missing Russell Westbrook) dropped the Heat to 7-14 in the season and was the team's seventh loss in 10 games.

Well, you can blame Miami's early losses to championship hangover and fatigue, given they were only given a couple of months to recover from a grinding schedule in the 2020 season's Orlando bubble.

But it's now over 20 games in the new season and Miami sits in 13th place in the East behind bonafide laughingstocks the Cleveland Cavaliers and the New York Knicks.

Nothing seems to work for Spoelstra's team this season as last season's breakout rookies Tyler Herro and Kendrick Nunn are not as impactful and 2020's super sophomore Duncan Robinson has definitely been a marked man and isn't as effective. The loss of starting frontliners Myles Leonard (out for the season with a shoulder injury) and Jae Crowder (signed with the Phoenix Suns) have also brought down the team's defensive intensity and one of the reasons opposing teams have been scoring at will against them.

Even Miami's resident veteran, Goran Dragic, has been a shell of himself this season, as the 34-year-old has been blowing hot and cold the past couple of games. Perhaps, age is finally catching up on The Dragon.

Team president Pat Riley's offseason moves also haven't paid off yet as Maurice Harkless is an offensive liability despite some flashes of brilliance on the defensive side. Avery Bradley has been good when he's been on the floor, but he's also out most of the time due to a variety of injuries and COVID-19 safety protocols.

Miami's struggles has also made Bam Adebayo sort of a scapegoat for critics of the struggling team as the fourth-year all-star out of Kentucky is fresh from signing a nearly $200-million, five-year contract extension. Except for rebounds, Adebayo's stats are all up this season and he has even developed a reliable jumper and is shooting more than 80% from the free throw line.

And then there's Jimmy Butler, the Heat's heart and soul was sidelined for three weeks and that absence coincided with team's precipitous fall in the standings. Like Bradley, Buckets is coming off a bout with COVID-19 but don't tell that to the three-time all-star as he put up great numbers in his return despite Miami going 1-2 during that span.

Still, something appears to be off with the 31-year-old Marquette product, especially during crunch time. Against Charlotte in his second game back, Butler pulled up from the 3-point line instead of driving strong for the game-winner (so far he's 0-13 in the season from the land of plenty). And in their game against Washington yesterday, he deferred too much to his teammates in the dying seconds, not exactly what you want from Miami's franchise player and undisputed leader.

There's also the Giannis Antetokounmpo factor as the two-time regular season MVP was rumored to prefer South Beach when he hits free agency after this season. Him having the same agent as Adebayo also didn't hurt. The chance of adding the Greek Freak to Miami's young and promising roster a couple of season removed from taking 2020 champions Los Angeles Lakers to six games in the NBA Finals was just too much to pass up for the Godfather Riley.

Alas, when that didn't happen, plus Riley's rumored dangling of Herro, Nunn, and Robinson in a potential trade for Houston's James Harden, it put the team's mental makeup off kilter (It's also the reason why the Heat offered Crowder just a one-year deal instead of his preferred two-year deal).

It's not too late for Butler and company to climb up the Eastern Conference standings as the Knicks, Cavaliers, Hornets, Atlanta Hawks, and Chicago Bulls are not expected to make the playoffs. But the Heat barely making the post-season dance after advancing to the NBA Finals the season before is a major letdown for Riley and Miami's top brass. Here's hoping Miami will still revert to the monster it was in the bubble once the playoffs come around. If not, I'm lucky I also root for the Lakers, LeBron notwithstanding.

Doncic, Mavs snap 6-game skid, hold off Hawks

PAGE 21

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Super Bowl could be farewell for pending free agents

PAGE 22

Entry for Micro Games sought

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
In this 2018 file photo, Nick Gross competes in the javelin throw during the 9th Micronesian Games in Yap.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Sports Association is calling all federations that will compete in the 2022 Micronesian Games to submit numerical entry for the Marshall Islands-hosted event.

NMSA executive director Carline Sablan confirmed receiving request from the 2022 Micronesian Games Organizing Committee for the estimated number of athletes, coaches, and officials that the CNMI, Guam, Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae, Palau, Kiribati, and Nauru will send in Marshall Islands for the quadrennial competition, which will be held from July 25 to Aug. 5.

Sablan, in an email sent to NMSA members, said the initial figures will be used by organizers to start negotiations with airlines. The Micro Games organizers added that the early numbers will give participating countries the opportunity to work on budgets for their delegates.

"The committee is mindful that budget hearings will begin soon for many governments and deadlines for 2022 budgets are approaching. The committee hopes to be able to provide airline ticket costs in a timely manner so we have the information we need to build budget requests for sponsors and government," Sablan said.

Fifteen events will be played in next year's Micro Games athletics, basketball (5 vs 5 and 3x3), volleyball (indoor and beach), fast-pitch softball (women's), tennis,

See ENTRY on Page 23

Bucs or Chiefs? Saipan fans take their pick

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The sentimental favorite or the oddsmakers' choice?

As the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Kansas City Chiefs meet in Super Bowl LV this Sunday (Monday on Saipan), the island's gridiron fans chose which side they are on or were simply forced to pick between Tom Brady's team and Patrick Mahomes' squad as their real favorites, unfortunately, were out of contention for the Vince Lombardi trophy.

The deciding factor was either the numbers from this season, giving the defending champions Chiefs the advantage, or the Tom Brady legacy that the Bucs hope will hand them their first Super Bowl since 2003.

■■■

"The 2020-21 season was an exciting ride for this football fan. My Buffalo Bills had one heck of a run but they couldn't get past the defending champs in the AFC title game. The Kansas City Chiefs are a complete team and they should get a couple of their skill players back as Le'Veon Bell and Sammy Watkins are expected to be ready for Super Bowl LV. It's not like superstar Patrick Mahomes needs any additional weapons but he'll gladly take them. On the other side of the ball, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers have a star-studded offense, savage defense, and a sage under center. I think Tommy Terrific gets his seventh ring this year in a close game thanks in no small part to the Tampa D. Tampa Bay 28, Kansas City 27."

Brad Ruszala, *Joint Region Marianas public affairs specialist*

"I'm going for the Bucs. I personally want to see a team win a Super Bowl in their home stadium especially with Tom Brady leading it. Everyone hates him because he's successful. I love it. Also, I have to throw my lot in with team *man'amko*, not with Mahomes."

Edward Dela Cruz, Jr., *Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting firefighter*

"I don't have an opinion this year as the Niners aren't in, LOL. Kelvin (Fitial) was sitting beside me telling me to write 'Chiefs' and we started arguing at the table, LOL. But, I lean toward Tom Brady as he originally wanted to be a Niner. Go Bucs!

Ed Arriola, *former CNMI Sharks player*

"Chiefs, because I know Patrick Mahomes will beat Tom Brady."

Kelvin Fitial, *MMA fighter*

"I think Brady Experience will win."

Charles Cepeda, *Marianas Racing Association president*

"I'm a Raider fan so I wanted the Raiders to win, and I don't like either team that's in the Super Bowl. But, if I had to choose, I'd pick the Bucs because they're not the Chiefs and I like their defense."

Larry Maurin, *Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality program manager*

"I think the Chiefs will win this year's Super Bowl! They have a solid offense with their QB Pat Mahomes, speedster WR Tyreek Hill, and TE Travis Kelce. The Bucs' defense are having problems covering these guys. It's going to be exciting...I'm just sad that my 49ers didn't make it this year, hopefully next year...34-26, Chiefs!

Carl James Hocog, *Department of Public Safety officer*